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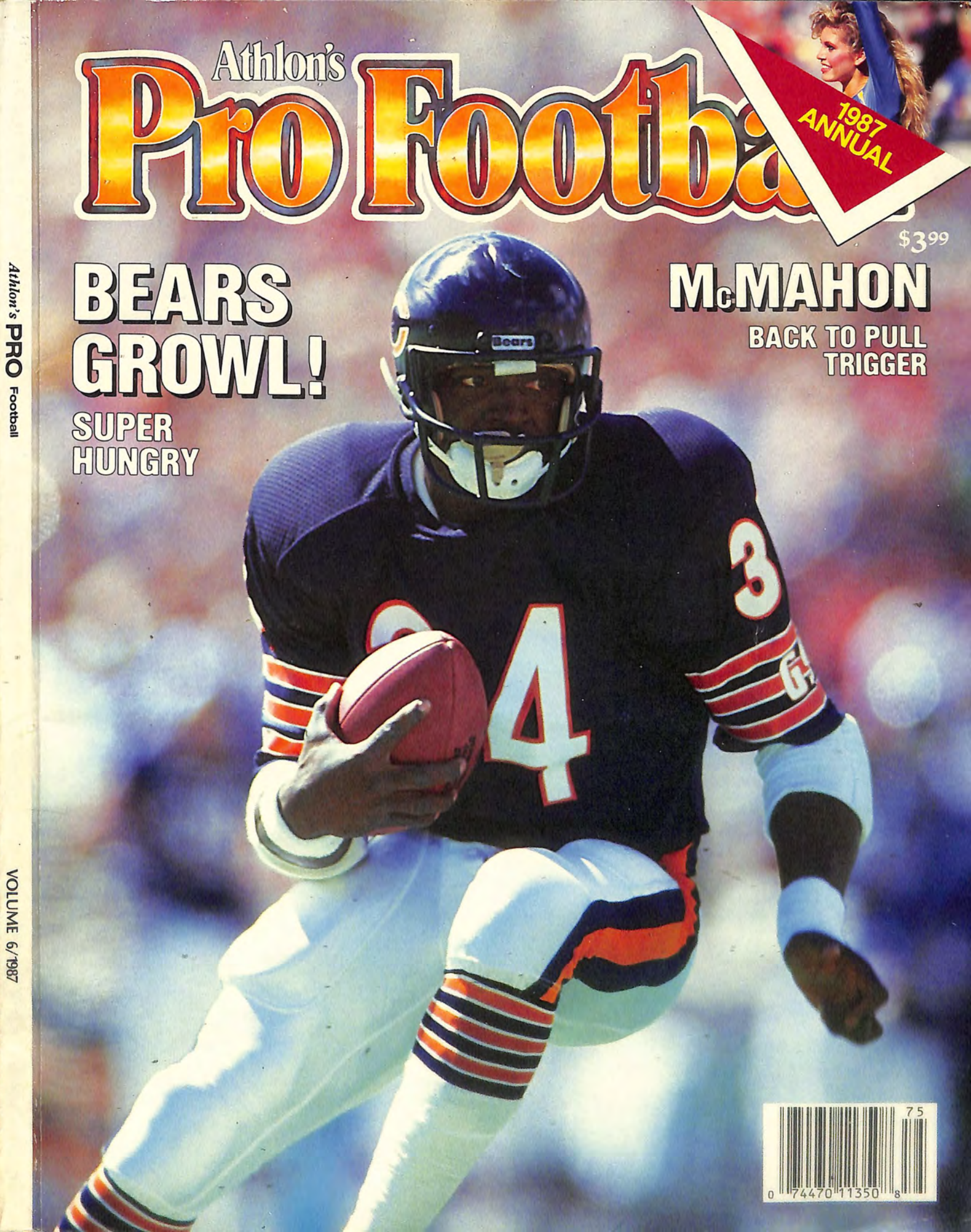

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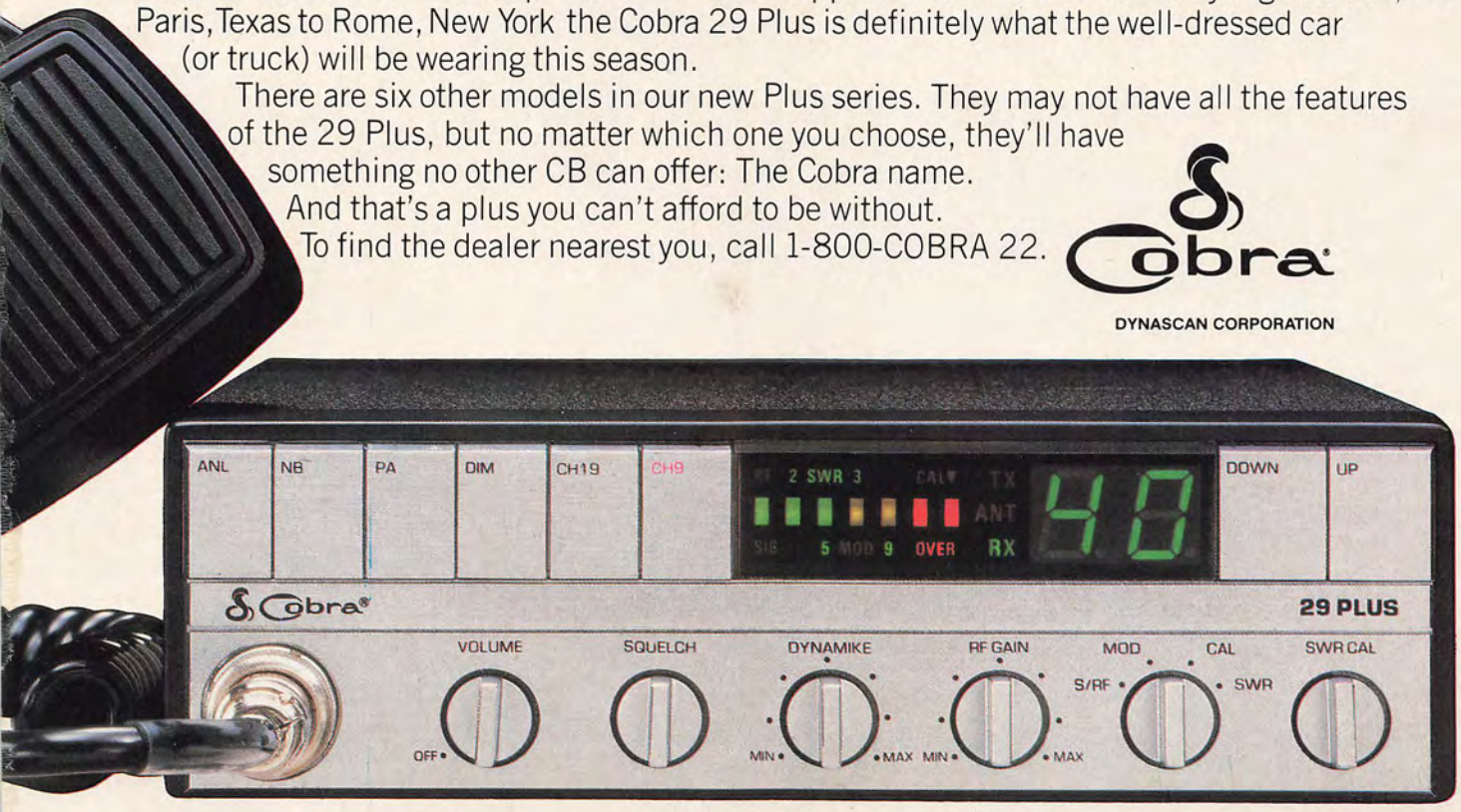

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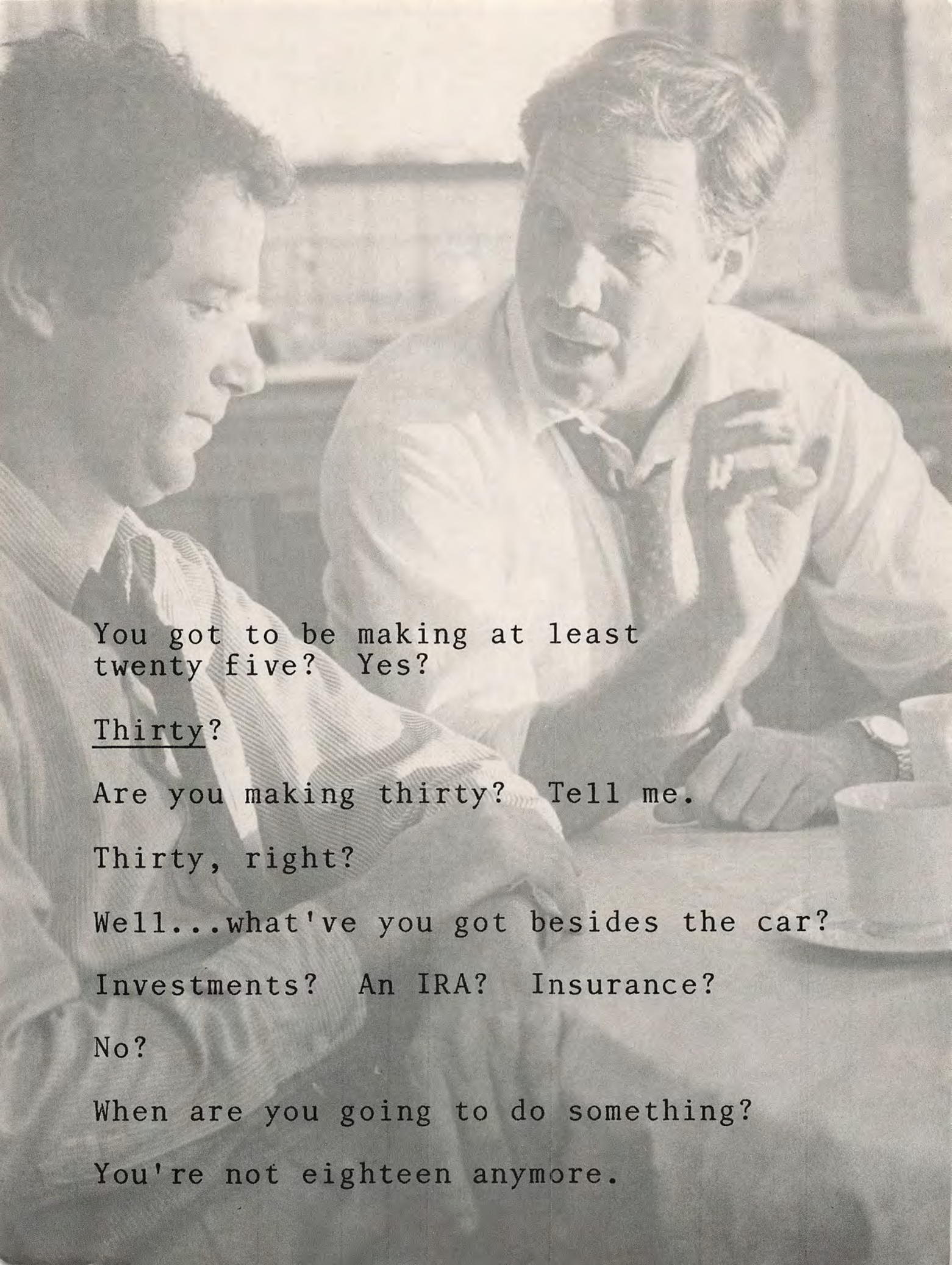

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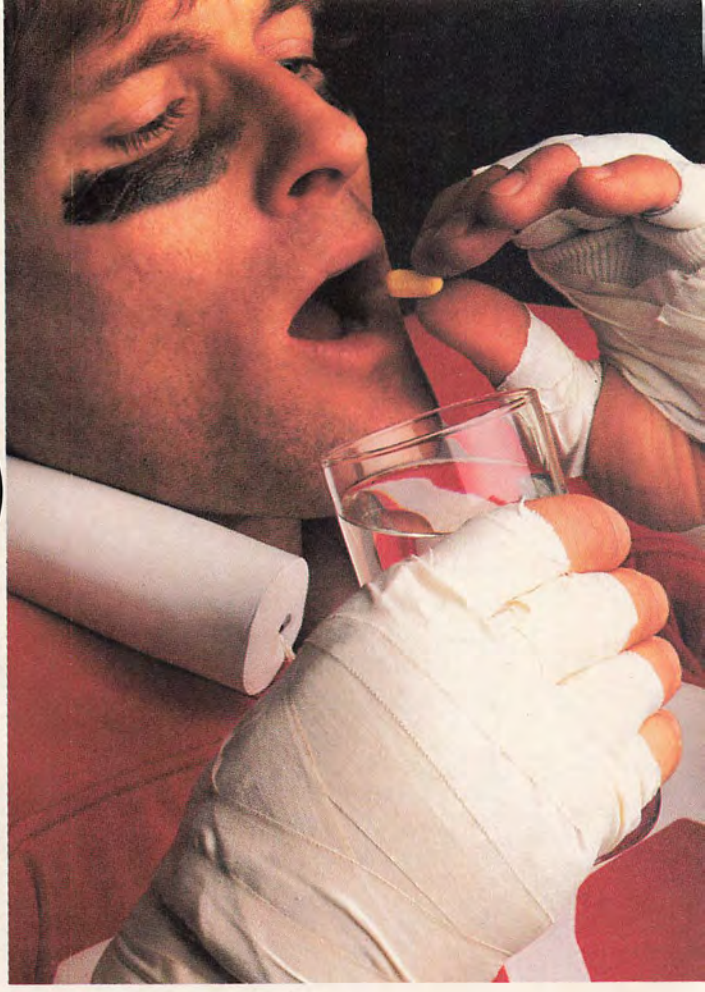

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Letter From the Publisher

Well, here we go again. For six seasons now, fans have come to rely on *Athlon's Pro Football* for some of the most entertaining writing, most colorful photography and most insightful analysis on football anywhere. Living up to their expectations, year after year, is never easy. Still, with our 1987 annual we've served up a football feast that we think will satisfy the appetites of even the most demanding readers.

Once again, we've assembled some of the country's top football writers—Gordon Forbes, Bill Lyon, Leonard Shapiro, John Owen and Jim Dent—to contribute their unique, expert and often humorous perspectives on the game. And, as usual, our photographic staff has done a marvelous job in capturing the sport's action and drama.

The Giants shower their coach with affection—it's a unique relationship.

If there's one act that's particularly hard for us to follow, however, it is that of our fearless prognosticator and resident mad genius, Managing Editor Daryl Sanders. For two years running—as he is always ready to point out—Sanders has predicted the Super Bowl champion with uncanny accuracy. In 1985, using his scientific but still-secret formula, he tabbed the Chicago Bears; last May, thank you very much, he picked the New York Giants to win it all. This year's champion? Sanders declares—drum roll, please—that the San Francisco 49ers will defeat the Cleveland Browns in Super Bowl XXII. You can read all about it in "Walsh Finds Mother Lode: Niners Mine Super Gold" on page 73. And remember, you saw it here first.

In making Sanders' 1986 prediction come true, Giants quarterback Phil Simms saved a performance for the Super Bowl that, according to his coach, "might be the greatest game a quarterback ever played." All Simms did was hit 22 of 25 passes for 268 yards and three touchdowns. Lyon looks back at the game, the Giants, and the Golden Gun in "How The Giants Exorcised Ghosts of Seasons Past," and he explains why the turning point came even before the game began. It's on page 99.

Lyon also takes a look at Coach Bill Parcells, the blue-collar native son who was most responsible for building the Giants into champions in just four years. In this richly drawn portrait, "Parcells: Blue-Collar Guy, Blue-Ribbon Coach," you'll see why the Giants enjoy a special relationship with the man whom they ritually douse with Gatorade and affectionately dub Tuna.

H.R. "Bum" Bright, the colorful owner of the Dallas Cowboys, also has been dubbed with nicknames, many unprintable, during a career in which he rose from poverty to become one of the richest men in America. In "Brightest Bum in Texas," Skip Hollandsworth describes what it's like to work for the football owner who takes pride in owning cheap paintings and adamantly refuses to pay 85 cents for a cup of coffee. You'll find it on page 183.

Tony Dorsett, still perhaps the most consistent performer for Bright's Cowboys, has joined elite company. At age 33, he is fourth on the NFL's all-time rushing list, and he expects to climb higher. Dent tells us what keeps this aging running back running in "Tony D: Man on a Mission," on page 163.

Of all the statistics kept on NFL games, none has been more analyzed and celebrated in recent years than the sack. Forbes evaluates the commonly held belief that teams that sack together win together. He also describes some of the strategies offenses employ to neutralize the top sack specialists—such as the Raiders' Howie Long—which often include kicking, holding and biting. "Big Bounty on NFL QBs" begins on page 129.

In his annual assessment of the state of the NFL, Shapiro analyzes the most important business that took place *off* the field, from owner-player relations to drug testing to television contracts.

We're also proud to introduce a new feature this season: *Athlon's* Pro Photo of the Year. Selected from the thousands and thousands of shots we examine every year—and that's no exaggeration—the winner represents the one photo we believe captures the action of the game most dramatically. Look for it on page 207.

Our regular features include Owen's analysis of the draft and Tim Cohane's always-tough crossword puzzle.

And, of course, there's our photographic tribute to some of the NFL's key figures: "Honey Watching on a Sunday Afternoon." Turn straight to page 136.

There's a lot of good material to digest here. Dig in and enjoy.

Jerry McCoin

Publisher

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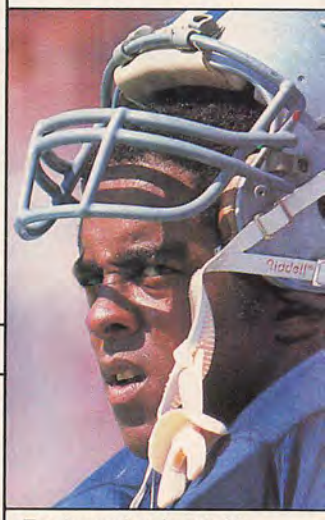

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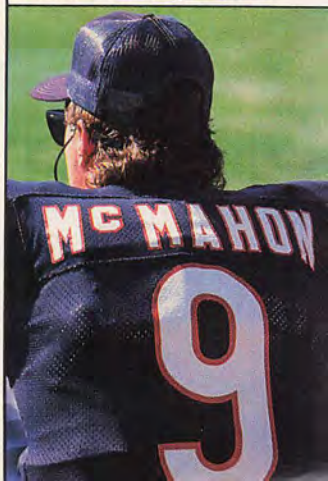


IT'S GIANT

After dropping a pass near the goal line in a close game, Notre Dame tight end Mark Bavaro, head down, trotted to the sideline, where he was met by Gerry Faust.

"It's OK, Bavaro," Coach Faust said. "Just forget about it."

"It's not OK," Bavaro snapped. "I dropped the SOB. And that's not OK."

Faust probably should have felt honored. At least Bavaro had spoken to him, an honor bestowed upon few people, even teammates.

Bavaro's silence became one of the hottest issues of Super Bowl XXI week. It began on Tuesday, which is designated Picture Day by the NFL. Tuesday also happens to be the biggest interview day of the week. The players dress out in full uniform and spend almost an hour surrounded by 9,123 reporters.

"Bavaro walked up and asked if I was all right. I was thrilled he was talking to me. I said, 'This guy really likes me.'"

Bavaro interpreted Picture Day as nothing more than a time set aside for photographs.

"They didn't tell me I had to talk," the New York Giants' tight end told reporters. "So I'm not talking."

So, after 21 years, Picture Day will now be called Picture-Interview Day.

"We'll also call it the 'Mark Bavaro Rule,' " said Dick Maxwell, director of information for the National Football Conference.

Giants quarterback Phil Simms had some comforting words for reporters after they were shunned by Bavaro. He told them not to take it personally.

"In the San Francisco playoff game, Bobby Johnson caught a touchdown pass, and I was hit and knocked a little dizzy. Bavaro walked up and asked if I was all right. I was thrilled he was talking to me. I said, 'This guy really likes me.' "

Later, Bavaro corrected, "That wasn't the first thing I said to him."

In remaining silent, Bavaro is helping nurture a mystique that is growing larger than the New York skyline. He may be the game's best all-around tight end. But even teammates don't know what to make of him.

"Bavaro is cold," Coach Bill Parcells says. "He never says anything to anybody. I'd hate to get in a fight with that guy."

This much we know about Bavaro. He has become the NFL's best blocking tight end and may someday be the best receiver, too. He is transformed into an 18-wheeler after catching the ball. He dragged six members of the Washington Redskins 11 yards during the NFC title game.

Bavaro may have had his finest game in the second outing against Washington during a 24-14 victory. Not only did he catch five passes for 111 yards and one touchdown, but he single-handedly blocked the Redskins' defensive ends all day.

CBS analyst John Madden said of Bavaro's afternoon, "That was the greatest blocking job I've ever seen by a tight end."

Of Bavaro, Washington All-Pro defensive end Dexter Manley said, "Yeah, he got to me a couple of times. But I'll tell you something. He'll never do it again."

Giants General Manager George Young makes an interesting comparison between Bavaro and former All-Pro tight end John Mackey. After playing only six seasons in Baltimore, Mackey was voted the game's best tight end of the first 50 years. He was the first of a breed to run deep patterns like a wide receiver, and, like Bavaro, he could bring thunder to the secondary.

Young worked for the Colts during the Mackey era.

"Bavaro has better hands than Mackey," Young says. "You usually saw Mackey catch the ball with his body and then bowl people over. But with Bavaro, people fall off him when he doesn't know the hit is coming. He's got natural balance and strength. He's a different creature than Mackey."

Bavaro plays with a toughness normally reserved for defensive players.

Giants linebacker Harry Carson, who knows something about toughness, says,

(continued)

Reticent tight end Mark Bavaro of the Super Bowl champions may not talk a good game, but he certainly does play one.

GIANTS
20

"When you rate guys according to their toughness, put Bavaro at the top of the list."

After eight games last season, Parcells was asked if Bavaro should be voted All-Pro. "I don't know about that," he said. "But he's All-Jungle."

During his second game as a pro, Bavaro collided with Denver defensive back Randy Robbins, who was left with two broken bones in his forearm.

Bavaro's toughness may have cost him in the 1985 NFL draft. He chose to play part of his senior season of 1984 at Notre Dame on a torn ligament in his left knee. The notation in his college medical record reads: "Nov. 15: Torn anterior cruciate ligament. No surgery."

By waiting until the end of his final collegiate season to have surgery, Bavaro raised questions about his availability for the 1985 season as a pro.

Bavaro's medical history was so long that it made many scouts wary of him. He had surgery after his junior season to repair a separated shoulder. He was redshirted for the 1982 season after punching a plate-glass window and severely cutting his hand.

"He had a multitude of injuries," says Cowboys personnel director Gil Brandt. "But we still gave him a high grade. What happens to guys with injuries is that you either look like a hero for drafting them, or they only play for a few years. It wasn't a case where we didn't know anything about him. We sent two scouts to look him over during the spring of his senior year. We were just worried about the injuries."

Brandt, like other scouts, underestimated Bavaro's incredible tolerance for pain.

"He's one of the great competitors of all time," Brandt says. "It would be hard to foresee that anyone could be that tough."

In other words, Bavaro was a steal in the fourth round.

But there is more to Bavaro than just a suit of armor. His athletic skills are well-documented. When he was a sophomore at Boston's Danvers High, he won a bronze medal at a track meet in Los Angeles. He was a hurdler, high jumper, triple jumper and shot-putter. Weighing 255 pounds, he once cleared 6-6 in the high jump.

He has been consistently timed in 4.6 seconds for the 40-yard dash, meaning he can run as fast as many NFL wide receivers.

The biggest debate about Bavaro is whether he is a better receiver or blocker. He caught 66 passes in the '86 season to rank seventh in the NFC.

"I do both average to good," he says. "I don't stand out. I just try my hardest in every game. That's my job, you know."

Because Bavaro rarely talks about himself, he's hard to categorize. But don't compare him to Rambo, the Sylvester Stallone character.

The nickname Rambo was given him by teammates because he plays with machine-gun toughness and because he resembles Stallone.

"Rambo exploited the Vietnam veteran," Bavaro says. "I have respect for people who went over there. My uncle and cousin were there. I don't like to be called Rambo."

With Bavaro consistently drawing coverage from a linebacker and strong safety, and sometimes both, it's hard to double-team Giants wide receivers. And with Lionel Manuel returning from an injury, the passing game should be even better.

The Giants' wide receivers had mediocre years with Bobby Johnson catching 31 passes, Stacy Robinson 29 and Phil McConkey only 16.

But McConkey, who was actually released and then reacquired through a trade, will always be remembered for catching a 48-yard flea-flicker pass from Simms and for the deflected touchdown catch off Bavaro's hands in Super Bowl XXI.

The backfield could stay intact for several years. Joe Morris (1,516 yards, second to Eric Dickerson's NFL-leading total of 1,821) is one of the best runners and Maurice Carthon one of the best blocking fullbacks in the league. But the awakening of Simms was the most significant element in the entire season.

For three straight weeks late in the season, Simms led his team to comeback victories, twice on the road. All three were against playoff-caliber teams. He converted what seemed to be a hopeless situation into a completion on fourth and 16 against Minnesota, leading to the winning field goal with 15 seconds to play.

Nose tackle Jim Burt stood out in a defense that was the NFL's second best.

End Leonard Marshall is a difficult-to-block veteran on a stalwart front.

Phil Simms had the touch of a master as he led the Giants to the championship.

Simms has Parcells to thank for reviving his confidence after the season-opening loss to Dallas. "Coach Parcells pulled me aside one day and told me he still thought I was a great quarterback," Simms says. "I will always remember that."

With Simms having his finest season (3,487 yards and 21 touchdowns passing), the offensive line also played like a championship unit. Parcells believes the future is bright with this group that lines up from left to right: Brad Benson, Billy Ard, Bart Oates, Chris Godfrey and Karl Nelson. Benson became the first offensive lineman ever to be named NFC Offensive Player of the Week when, during Week 14 against Washington, he held Manley to only three tackles and no sacks. Benson also was selected to his first Pro Bowl.

Few could argue that linebacker Lawrence Taylor was the game's best player in 1986. He led the NFL with 20½ sacks and was voted the NFC Defensive Player of the Year, the NFL Defensive MVP, the Schick NFL Player of the Year and was selected a Pro Bowl starter for the sixth consecutive year.

Harry Carson, Gary Reasons and Carl Banks (the team's leading tackler) are precisely what the Giants need—big, strong linebackers who play the game as well as anyone.

While the Giants' linebackers are considered the best in the NFL, the defensive line is good, not great. Nose tackle Jim Burt had an outstanding season. Defensive end George Martin, who was expected to retire, met with Parcells after the Super Bowl and has decided to return for one more season. At the other end, Leonard Marshall was selected to the Pro Bowl for the second year in a row and finished second to Taylor with 12 sacks.

The secondary is subpar for a championship team. New York intercepted only 24 passes in the regular season. No one blames Parcells for trying to replace cornerbacks Elvis "Toast" Patterson and Perry Williams. Free safety Herb Welch was an adequate replacement for the injured Terry Kinard. Giants coaches were able to "hide" Welch from Denver quarterback John Elway during Super Bowl XXI.

With Kinard returning, the defense should make even more big plays. If the defense continues to improve, the NFL competition committee may need new legislation to help opposing offensive units.

The Giants got a big break in signing kicker Raul Allegre, who had been cut by the Indianapolis Colts. Allegre kicked 24 of 32 field goals and didn't miss an extra point.

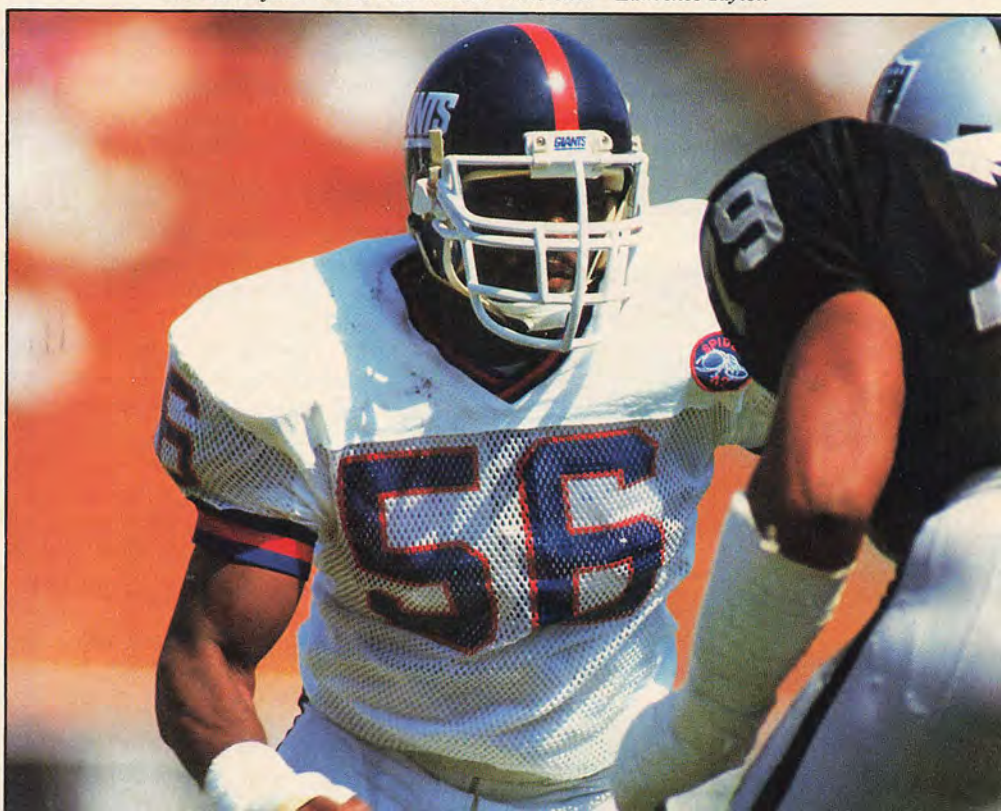
Punter Sean Landeta was the NFC leader with a 44.8 average.

Since winning Super Bowl XXI, the Giants have been asked a million times if they will repeat as NFL champions. No team has done it in the 1980s. Washington came the closest by winning Super Bowl XVII and then qualifying for Super Bowl XVIII before losing to the Raiders. The Chicago Bears didn't make it after their '85 championship season. San Francisco didn't make it past the wild-card round after its victory in Super Bowl XIX. The 49ers, in fact, didn't even qualify for the playoffs after winning Super Bowl XVI following the '81 season. The Raiders didn't progress past the wild-card round after winning Super Bowl XVIII and didn't even make the playoffs after winning Super Bowl XV.

The Giants may be a different case, though. They have more depth at key positions than any other Super Bowl champion of the 1980s. And they have a quarterback who has finally come of age.

END

The title defense will be built around—who else?—Lawrence Taylor.



WASHINGTON

Since blowing in from south Texas during that summer of 1983, Darrell Green has been racing on a fast track that few have traveled.

Even during idle time, the 5-8 Green motors around the Redskins' locker room as if he's running two hours late. Teammates often wonder what is whirring in his active head. Reporters have trouble corralling him.

"Darrell is fun to watch," Washington Coach Joe Gibbs says. "He's a little man in a big man's game. And because he's so small, he's not about to let anybody lay a hand on him."

In a game of specialists, Green is one of the most versatile players of the 1980s. If he were playing for a mediocre team, he might very well start at wide receiver and cornerback, along with returning kicks and, perhaps, taking a few snaps from center.

"Offense is more for the glamour people. That's the way I've always looked at it. But if they want me to play offense, I'll play offense."

For the moment, though, Green is limited to being a Pro Bowl cornerback, who often returns punts and kickoffs, as well as covering kicks. He also holds the title of "disaster receiver" and has about five plays in the Washington playbook.

"Defense is still my game because, in a way, it's my style," Green says. "Offense is more for the glamour people. That's the way I've always looked at it. But if they want me to play offense, I'll play offense."

Not since 1981, when St. Louis' Roy Green was alternating between the defensive secondary and wide receiver, has an NFL player participated on both sides of the line. The Redskins are not yet ready to try Green at both positions because, quite frankly, they have two of the game's best starting wide receivers in Gary Clark and Art Monk.

Clark and Monk tied the San Francisco duo of Jerry Rice and Dwight Clark for the most receptions (147) during the 1986 regular season.

Green has the speed to become one of the game's real deep threats. Following the 1985 season, he won the title of NFL's Fastest Man by winning 60-yard dashes against Green Bay wide receiver Phillip Epps, 1984 Olympics Gold Medal winner and Rams wide receiver Ron Brown, and Chicago wide receiver Willie Gault, also a world-class sprinter.

But Green lost the title last winter when Dallas newcomer Herschel Walker beat him during Superstars competition. Walker ran 100 yards in 9.3 seconds.

Still, Green is the league's fastest defensive back. In college days at Texas A&I, he once ran 100 meters in 10.08 seconds. During the 1985 season, he returned punts 73 and 90 yards for touchdowns, only to have them called back by penalties.

In 1983, Tony Dorsett was considered the NFL's fastest running back. A year earlier, he had broken the NFL record by sprinting 99 yards for a touchdown against Minnesota. But in the opening game of the '83 season, Dorsett was surprised to be caught from behind by Green at the Washington 3-yard line after running 77 yards. It was Green's first game with the Redskins.

"He was like a blur," Dorsett said afterward. "Where did that guy come from? Who is that guy?"

A two-time selection to the Pro Bowl, Green has joined an elite class.

"Mike Haynes probably would have to be considered the best of the defensive backs right now," says Washington assistant coach Emmitt Thomas. "But Darrell is quicker and faster. As soon as he works on his technique and matures a little bit, he'll be the top man."

Size, of course, is a factor with Green. When you're 5-8 and 170 pounds, opposing strategists often devise innovative ways to beat you. Like the time the Pittsburgh Steelers lined up 6-7 wide receiver Weegie Thompson on Green, who knocked down the alley-oop pass at the goal line.

Green's teammates have fun with his diminutive size. Speaking to a group of Washington-area school children, he found a chair stationed behind the lectern. Someone was suggesting that he wasn't tall enough to reach the microphone.

(continued)

Remarkably versatile, Darrell Green (28), fastest defensive back in the NFL, gives the Redskins a different look.

Light-fingered Art Monk doesn't always need two hands to catch a pass.

(Washington continued)

Green actually plays in the land of the giants. The term Hogs wasn't concocted for the offensive line because of their small bodies. Washington's offensive line, which features 305-pounder Joe Jacoby, is one of the biggest in the NFL. Defensive tackle Dave Butz rarely dips below 300 pounds.

"Looking at football as a big man's game, it's a miracle what a lot of little guys are doing nowadays," Green says. "Why, some of the running backs these days are 220 and 230 pounds, and they can run as fast as I can. And I'm playing against these guys and I'm doing all these different things out there. It's very gratifying to me. I'm just reaping some of the hard work that I've put in."

As for being short, he says: "I've always been short. I'll be short on the day I die. I'll always be teased about it. But that's OK."

Because of his size, Green was expected to be passed in the first round of the 1983 draft. But with one of their rare first-round choices, the Redskins gambled.

"When he had a very good rookie season, we knew we had made a good choice," General Manager Bobby Beathard says. "We knew that it might take time for Darrell to develop as a coverage man. But when you've got that kind of speed, you can make up for a lot of things."

The 1986 season was not a spectacular one for Green in statistics. He did lead the team with five interceptions, but that number didn't rank among the top 12 in the NFC. He returned 12 punts for a 10-yard average.

"We could do a lot more with Darrell, but we still don't want to do too much with him," Gibbs says. "You don't want to burn the guy out when he's your best cornerback. You don't want a guy walking around heavy-legged when he's got to cover the best wide receivers in the business. Darrell Green can do a lot. But that still doesn't mean he needs to do everything."

Becoming the NFL's best cornerback, even better than Haynes of the Los Angeles Raiders, might be enough to satisfy the NFL's second-fastest human.

"I don't think people ever thought I would be considered Pro Bowl caliber," Green says. "But that's OK. When I got to the NFL and I got a look at all of the big guys, I didn't think I would get this far, either."

If the Redskins are to continue as one of the NFL's elite teams, their defense must improve. They finished 21st among league teams in total defense last year.

Washington could use some help at linebacker, where Neal Olkewicz and Rich Milot have barely been hanging onto starting jobs.

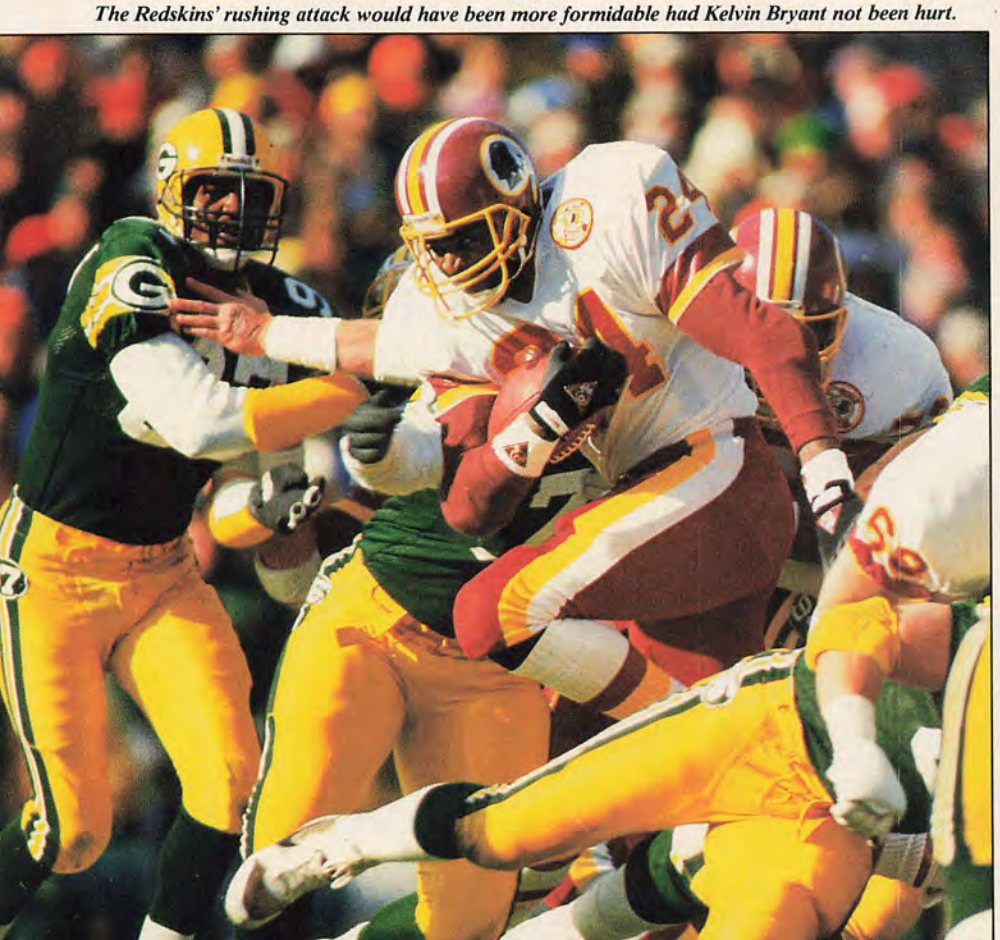
But no one can complain with the defensive line where Dexter Manley finished the season with 18½ sacks. Sacks is a statistic that has officially been on the NFL books since 1982. According to Redskins' statistics, Manley has 70½ during his six-year career.

"If Dexter continues to play the way he has, he might someday be considered one of the NFL's most dominating players," Gibbs says. "He has shown us a lot of good effort, especially the last few seasons."

The remainder of the starting defense last season found Charles Mann at end, Darryl Grant or Dean Hamel at tackle, Calvin Daniels at linebacker and Vernon Dean, Ken Coffey

(continued on page 53)

The Redskins' rushing attack would have been more formidable had Kelvin Bryant not been hurt.



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DALLAS

Herschel Walker has always been the soft-spoken guy with an easy manner and the soft Georgia drawl.

But the year 1986 was a stormy one for the man of steel from the piney woods, the near savior of the USFL who stood by the failing league and Owner Donald Trump until the bitter end. Almost from the day the USFL folded last August, Walker found himself at the center of a storm that blew through Dallas like a mean Texas twister.

Walker almost incited a walkout by All-Pro running back Tony Dorsett upon signing his five-year, $5 million contract. Dorsett seethed through an entire season because Walker was making more money.

"I think that Herschel Walker is going through what most 24-year-olds go through. . . . When you're 24, you somehow think that being 30 is old."

"I will not play second fiddle to anyone on this football team," Dorsett said last August. "They should trade me and get it over with. I still have a lot of value. I haven't lost a step. So trade me right now while I've still got some value."

Storm No. 2 occurred near midseason when Walker—in a polite manner—said he wasn't getting enough work in the Cowboys' backfield. Although Dorsett was hobbled about half of the season with a sprained ankle and knee, Walker never felt fulfilled as a runner, even though he did break the team record for receptions with 76 for 837 yards.

Walker finished second, 11 yards behind Dorsett, with 737 rushing yards for a 4.9 average. It was the first time that Walker hadn't gained 1000 yards in a season since high school. And it was a considerable letdown from 1985 when he rushed for 2,411 yards in an 18-game USFL season.

After the fifth game last season, Walker said of his limited role: "It's disappointing because I am a competitor and because I love to play football. I'm not here so much for the money. It's disappointing because I can't see them changing the offense if things are going well."

After limping through much of November with a severely sprained ankle, Walker surprised the Cowboys by saying he might not return for a second season. And even if he played another year, Walker said he couldn't foresee himself completing his five-year contract.

"I might retire," Walker said on Dec. 4. "I have enjoyed this season more than I thought I would. But I just know I won't be doing this much longer. I'm serious. There is a chance I won't be back."

Then, when the Cowboys' 7-9 season ended with a 24-10 loss to Chicago, Walker told reporters, "There's no better than a 50-50 chance that I'll be back. It would be a coin flip."

Although Walker has since said he *will* play in 1987, few people in Dallas know what to make of him, or his statements.

"I think that Herschel Walker is going through what most 24-year-olds go through," said Cowboys President Tex Schramm, who was responsible for drafting and signing him. "When you're 24, you somehow think that being 30 is old. It seems like a whole new world to you. I just think that Herschel is having a hard time seeing himself at age 30."

In almost every way, Walker is different from his NFL peers. He neither drinks nor smokes. He eats one meal a day. He sleeps five hours a night.

While many of his teammates are hitting the nightclubs on the Greenville Avenue Strip, Walker goes home after dark—to watch television. And while he is watching two of his favorite shows—*Love Connection* and *Championship Wrestling*—he will likely do 500 push-ups and 500 sit-ups.

Midway through last season, Walker agreed to attend the grand opening of the Hard Rock Cafe near downtown Dallas. But, just as the party started rolling, Walker left. Why?

"Because I had to get home in time to see *Championship Wrestling*," he said.

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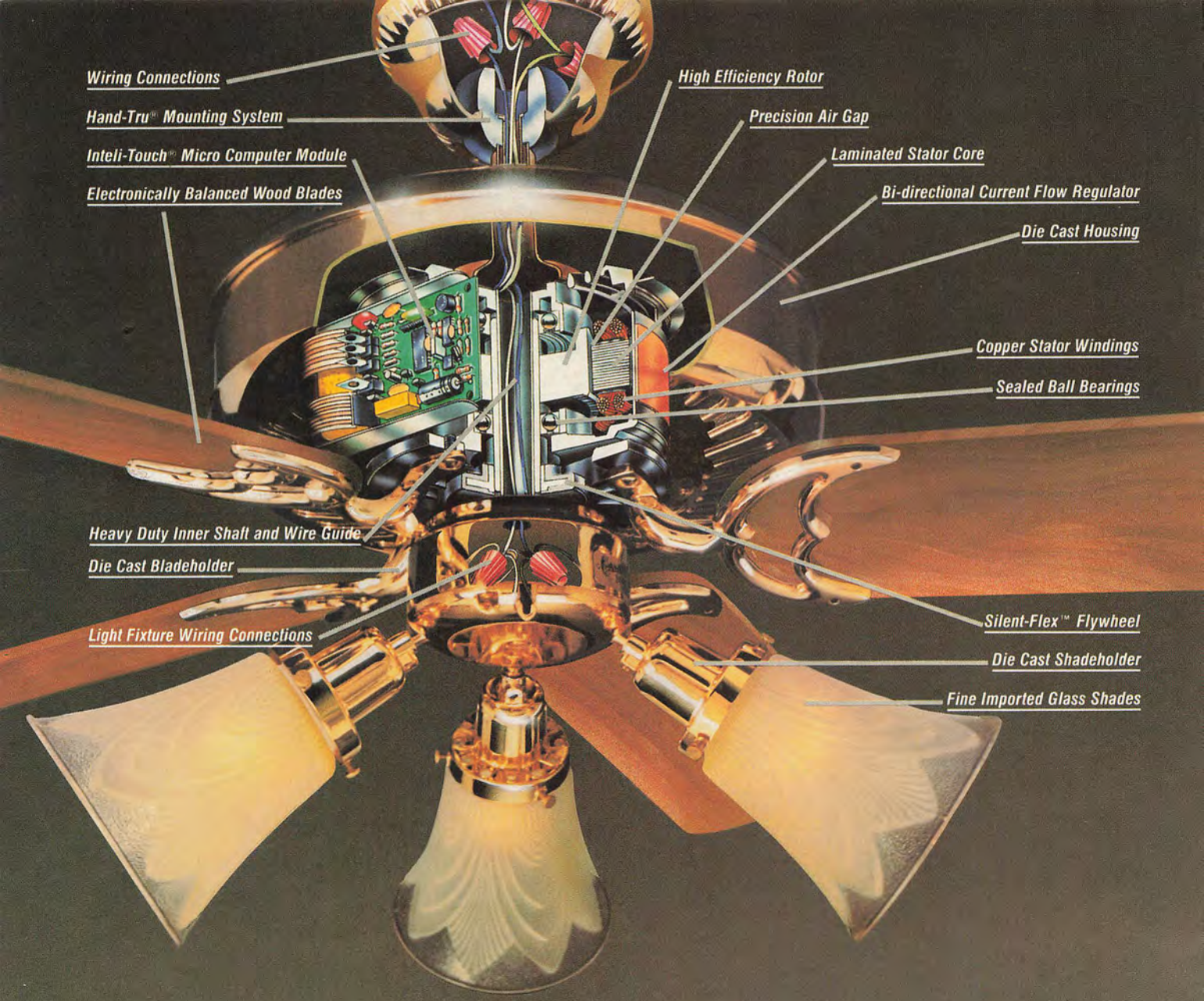
To be forewarned about Herschel Walker is to be forearmed, but even that often doesn't do much good.

BIKE



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(Dallas continued)

A business associate estimates that Walker makes about $200,000 a month from his Cowboys' contract and endorsements. Agent and adviser Peter Johnson, who negotiated the $5 million contract, said Walker hasn't even touched his $1.4 million signing bonus.

"Herschel's net worth today stands at several million dollars," Johnson says. "He's not even using any of the bonus to live on. He's still getting paid by the New Jersey Generals. In 1986, he made over $2 million, and that's going to get substantially larger in 1987 from endorsements and investments."

When you consider Walker's net worth, his lifestyle seems light years away from the fast-lane glitter of the NFL. His wife, Cindy, couldn't even talk him into buying a new Mercedes. Walker still owns the Firebird that he drove around the Georgia campus during his 1980 freshman year.

From the way he acts around the Dallas locker room, you might think Walker is just another $90,000-a-year offensive lineman.

"He's the nicest man I've ever met in my life," says Cowboys equipment manager Buck Buchanan. "He's never complained about anything to me. And nobody's ever heard a cuss word out of him. The amazing thing, I think, is that his behavior has rubbed off on the other guys. They act better because he's around."

If some people were confused by his behavior—and by his statements—imagine what the coaching staff went through last season. Walker had played seven different positions by the eighth game. His first play in the NFL was at wide receiver, not running back.

Finally, by Thanksgiving, Walker was assigned the starting fullback job, the position he will hold this season.

"I don't think we ever truly knew what to do with Herschel, because he came to us so late," pass coordinator Paul Hackett says. "We moved him around a lot, thinking that it would be hard for defenses to catch up with us. But we never really established any continuity with Herschel. Establishing continuity will be the first thing we've got to do with him this season. There is absolutely no question about that whatsoever."

Not until the 15th game did Walker really establish himself as a running threat. He had 122 rushing yards against Philadelphia, which included an 84-yard touchdown run. Amazingly, Walker added another 170 receiving yards, which also included an 84-yard touchdown reception.

"It was the best offensive performance I've ever seen," says Coach Tom Landry. "Herschel just showed us so many things all season that it was really hard to decide what to do with him."

Landry's offense is still built around the tailback. And Dallas' starting tailback is still Dorsett, who at 33 is among the NFL's oldest running backs.

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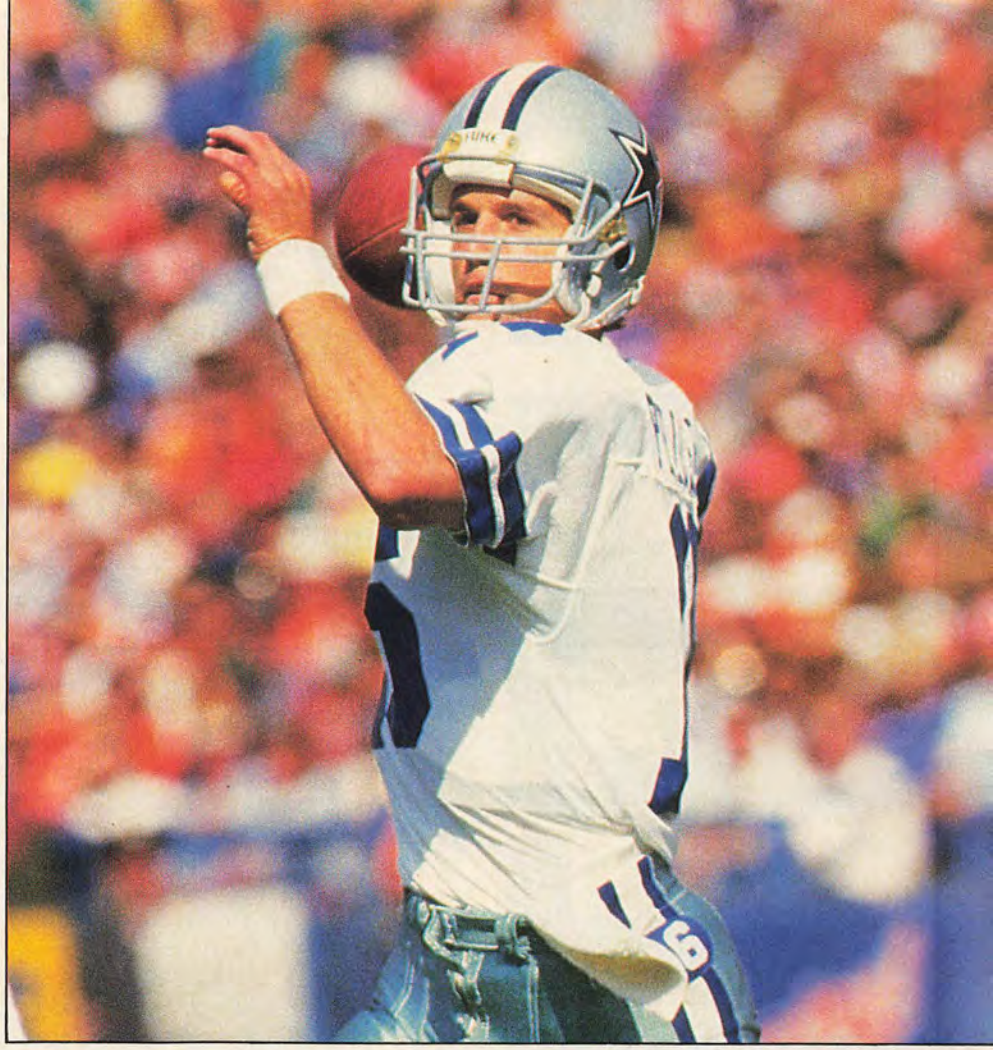


While Cowboys' quarterback Steve Pelluer (above) showed promise, end Jim Jeffcoat (left) arrived last year, ranking fourth in the NFC in sacks with 14.

PHILADELPHIA

Will the real Reggie White please stand up, or sit down? Or should we ask him to do his best impression of John Wayne?

Who is Reggie White, and what kind of impression is he really making on the NFL?

Since becoming a Philadelphia Eagle, White has been many things to all kinds of people. Preacher. Impressionist. Defensive end. Defensive tackle.

Is Reggie White's greatest talent grasping the quarterback, or gripping the pulpit? Some say White could do a 4.6 40-yard dash down the aisle of a Baptist church.

"A couple of years ago, I was accepting more invitations to preach. . . . But then the Lord told me to ease up a little bit and pay more attention to my work."

He has preached in more than 100 Southern Baptist churches. He also does some impressive impersonations of people like Elvis Presley, Howard Cosell, Rodney Dangerfield, John Wayne and even Kamala (of wrestling renown).

White even does public service announcements on the instant replay screen at Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium. "Some fans just don't get no respect," he says in his best Rodney Dangerfield. The message is that rowdy fans should show more respect for the guy sitting in the next seat.

"The guy was born to entertain," Eagles linebacker Garry Cobb says. "He has our guys rolling in the locker room."

And he has them rolling in the pews. White has been an ordained Baptist preacher since age 17. At the University of Tennessee, he became known as the Minister of Defense. In some places around the NFL, they simply call him Reverend Sack.

Although White's religious values haven't changed, he has recently paid more attention to playing football than preaching. One result is that he had 15 sacks in the final eight games last season—far more than anyone else during that period.

"A couple of years ago, I was accepting more invitations to preach," White says. "But then the Lord told me to ease up a little bit and pay more attention to my work."

He made a lasting impression on the NFL in 1986. He replaced another guy named White—Dallas' Randy White—in the Pro Bowl. Not since 1976 had Dallas' White been left off the Pro Bowl roster as a defensive tackle. But when you have a year like Reggie White's, anything is possible.

The Eagles might have finished in next-to-last place in the NFC East. But a star was born in the defensive line when White turned it on in the second half of the season and became the most dominating lineman in the league.

"I think he's the best defensive lineman I've ever been around," Eagles Coach Buddy Ryan said after the past season. "And I've been around some pretty good ones. You don't get many in a career of coaching. But I've had (John) Elliott in New York, (Alan) Page in Minnesota along with (Carl) Eller, (Dan) Hampton and (Richard) Dent in Chicago. But this guy, I think he's the best. He's got size, he's got speed and he's got quickness. The good Lord gave him the whole package. And brains, too."

That statement irked Hampton and Dent. After all, they were the centerpiece of the Bears' 1985 defensive line when Ryan's 46 defense led them to a 15-1 regular season and an easy victory over New England in Super Bowl XX.

Not everyone gives credence to Ryan's brash statements, especially when the coach gives himself an A plus for a 5-10-1 season. But when he talks about White, Ryan makes you a believer.

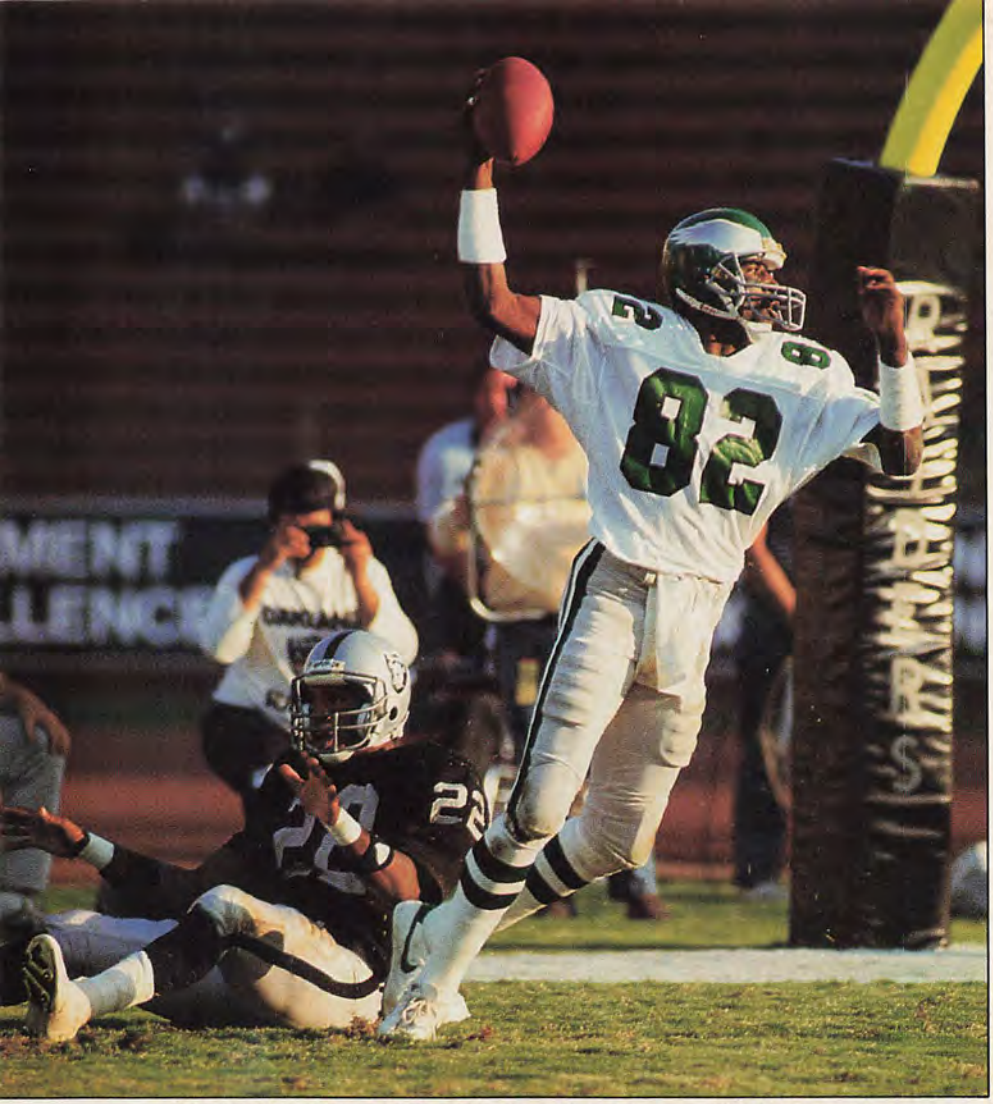
White had only three sacks during the first eight games when Ryan had him playing exclusively at defensive tackle. But when he began rotating between tackle and left end, the season turned in his favor.

Only after drawing criticism from media and fans did Ryan move White to end. Ryan was convinced that White's size and strength would stabilize the middle of Philadelphia's 46 defense. But he was drawing too much attention to the middle of the defense where he was double-teamed most of the time. It wasn't until the 6-5

(continued)

Eagle end/Baptist preacher Reggie White, known as Reverend Sack, lived up to his moniker last season with 18.

56
46
92



Mike Quick is always in high spirits after a TD catch, even with 42 in four years.

(Philadelphia continued)

White was switched to end that he began to throw some of his 285-pound weight around.

In one stretch, White had four sacks against St. Louis, four against the Raiders and three against Dallas. He would have been credited with a fourth against Dallas if quarterback Steve Pelluer hadn't been flagged for intentional grounding.

White also blocked two field goals, including one against St. Louis in overtime.

He has the speed of a Mark Gastineau, but coaches say he is far better against the run. And you must remember that White has played only two seasons in the NFL.

After completing a 20-game tune-up with the USFL's Memphis Showboats in the spring of 1985, White played another 13 games that autumn for Philadelphia. The Eagles were willing to pay $1.38 million to buy out his USFL contract and then sign him for another $1.65 million for four years.

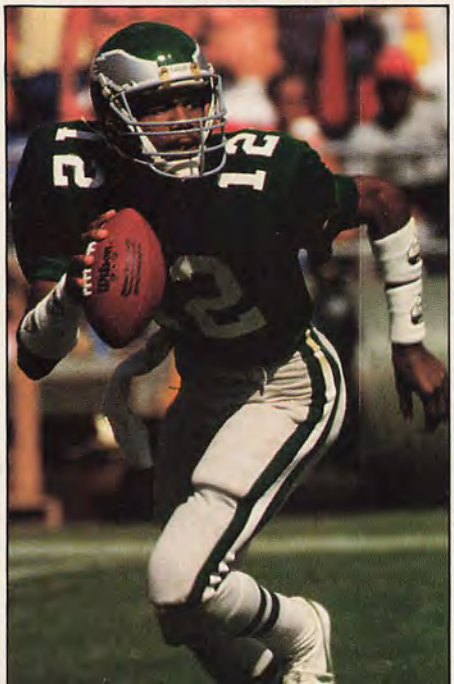
White's buy-out price was highest among USFL players to jump leagues. Quarterback Steve Young of the Los Angeles Express in the USFL cost Tampa Bay $1 million.

What makes White so special?

"Reggie is similar to Howie Long," Cobb says. "He can play end and he can play inside. He's so big and mobile that it's almost impossible for one man to handle him."

In White's first game with the Eagles, only nine days after signing his contract, he had two and a half sacks against the Giants.

Randall Cunningham: Eagles QB of the future.



"The Giants didn't know much about him," says Eagles defensive end Greg Brown. "That was pretty obvious. But they were the last team that didn't prepare for him. From then on, teams always did their homework when they were getting ready to play Reggie."

Despite White's intensity for football and his blue-collar work ethic, he still plays with a smile. Each time after sacking St. Louis' Neil Lomax last season, he picked up the quarterback, smiled and said, "Jesus Saves."

Some might question his Christian values while participating in such a violent sport.

How does White honor the Lord while whacking guys on the head and steamrolling quarterbacks?

"Football is not a violent game," he says. "It's an aggressive game. It's a great game when it's played right, and the Lord knows that I do my best to play it right."

Because White is so opposed to drugs and alcohol, he didn't want to be considered a candidate for NFL Lineman of the Year in 1986. Why? Because the award was sponsored by a beer company.

"You look at those TV commercials, and they make it look like it's so much fun to drink beer," he says. "I remember one of my buddies said, 'They never show guys with hangovers the next morning.' It hit my mind then. A lot of lives have really been taken over by alcohol."

White says he has come face to face with many temptations but has managed to whip them all.

"When I was a youngster, I tried beer," he says. "But I found out that I was just trying to impress my buddies. I thought, 'Hey, it's time to be independent, to start making my own decisions.' "

Along with the rest of the Eagles, White went through a learning experience last season. Ryan had great expectations for his team, although some people thought he was kidding when he predicted the Eagles would go undefeated (8-0) in the division. The Eagles won one game in their division.

Philadelphia's offense finished 25th in the NFL. The defense ranked 17th. Still, Ryan gave himself an A plus for his first season of head coaching.

"I'm just confident," Ryan says. "I don't think I'm cocky or arrogant. Of course, some people take it that way. I read things in the newspaper I've said, and I ask myself, 'Is that really the way it sounds?' "

Even though the NFC East continues to improve, with the Giants succeeding the Bears as Super Bowl champions, Ryan still believes the Eagles can win the divisional title.

"We should be a more experienced team," he says. "Hopefully, we'll take the ball away from opponents in the last two minutes. Hopefully, our placekicker will kick a couple of field goals in the last two minutes. A lot of things could happen to get us a better record."

(continued on page 52)

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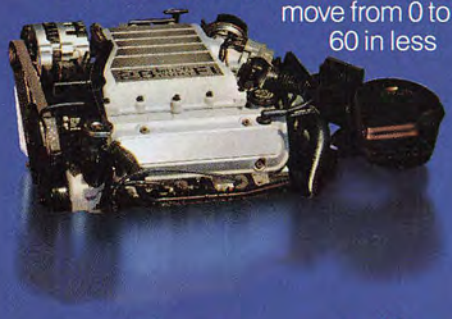

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THE *Heartbeat* OF AMERICA TODAY'S CHEVROLET

STILL

No wonder Stump Mitchell often finds himself running in the shadows. When Cardinals running back O.J. Anderson was traded to the Giants last season, opening the door to the starting lineup, Mitchell couldn't bring himself to smile.

"I hated to see O.J. go," Mitchell says. "I guess you could say that he became one of my best friends, one of my most loyal supporters. It was hard to say goodbye to a running back like that. I used to stand on the sideline and be in awe of him. I never thought I would take his place."

Due to several mitigating factors, including a personality clash with new Coach Gene Stallings, Anderson was traded to the Giants for a second and sixth draft choice. Stallings felt Mitchell would be more productive as a runner and receiver than Anderson, even though the latter rushed for more than 1000 yards in five of his seven seasons.

"If your leading running back is averaging only 14 carries a game, that's not good for the team. You've got to have between 20 and 30."

The strike in 1982 and an injury in '85 kept Anderson from surpassing 1000 yards in all seven seasons.

Now the football belongs to Mitchell. Like the rest of his teammates, he fulfilled no one's expectations during the '86 season. Finishing in last place in the NFC East, the Cardinals had a 4-11-1 record, the worst since the team moved from Chicago to St. Louis 27 years ago.

Somehow, the highly productive Mitchell slipped a few notches in that year of frustration. Although he started most of the season, he averaged fewer carries than in 1985 and finished with 800 yards, as compared to 1,006 the previous year.

"I don't know why we cut back on my carries," Mitchell says. "If your leading running back is averaging only 14 carries a game, that's not good for the team. You've got to have between 20 and 30. It's hard to get into the flow with less."

A team that wins only four games, two of those against Tampa Bay, needs work in almost every area.

Stallings admits that he didn't follow one of his own game plans last season, which was to center the offense on Mitchell's running-receiving skills.

"A lot of things went wrong, and Stump got caught in all of it," Stallings says. "No, we didn't run the ball the way we wanted to run it. And we probably didn't run enough. But a lot of that was due to the flow of the games."

It's true that when your team is outscored 82-15 in the first quarter, it's hard to depend on the running game. The Cardinals scored first in only three games. As a result, they found themselves leaning too heavily on the pass in the first half.

Mitchell was also bothered by injuries, including a sprained left knee that required constant attention. It wasn't unusual for him to have his knee so tightly wrapped with tape that he lost flexibility.

When the knee wasn't bothering him, Mitchell often needed pregame pain-killing injections around his rib cage.

"I thought Stump showed a lot of courage," Stallings says. "There's no question about the respect I have for him. When I was coaching in Dallas, I thought he was one of the best all-around players in our business."

At 5-9 and 188 pounds, Mitchell is not your conventional NFL running back. He's not particularly fast or overpowering, either. But, like the Giants' 5-7 Joe Morris, he has the uncanny ability to locate cracks of daylight in crowds and disappear. Like Morris, Mitchell often runs beneath the arms of the tacklers.

Frustrated New Orleans linebacker Rickey Jackson says: "He's hard to bring down because there's nothing to hold onto. He's got those short legs. Stump's like a little robot. He's the most unusual running back I've ever been around."

In addition to his rushing yardage, Mitchell holds the Cardinals' career records for kickoff returns and yardage (166 for 3,956) and punt returns and yardage (156 for

(continued)

With short legs that are hard to grab, Stump Mitchell of the Cardinals often frustrates tacklers.

Cardinal newcomers Vai Sikahema (36) and J.T. Smith (84) had surprisingly fine years.

(St. Louis continued)

1,377). Used sparingly as a returner in '86, he still managed a 33.8-yard return average on kickoffs. In '81, he set two NFL records.

Until 1985, when Anderson missed seven games with a foot injury, Mitchell lived quietly in a utility role. He had started only three games in four years until Anderson was hurt. But that's not to say he had not been a popular choice of St. Louis fans, who had begun to boo Anderson on a regular basis.

Starting eight games in '85, Mitchell averaged 5.5 yards per carry. He actually carried the ball nine times more (183) than he did in replacing Anderson last season.

"Stump will continue to be one of our most productive players," offensive coordinator Jim Shofner says. "But he was banged up a little bit. You just don't find many players who can do as many things."

Mitchell has become accustomed to being a quasi-star and semicelebrity. People have even forgotten his name, which happens to be Lyvonia Albert. His brother dubbed him Stump when he was 9 because he wasn't growing as fast as the other kids. He never did catch up with his peers.

"Nobody has ever called me Lyvonia, except for maybe my mother," Mitchell says. "I hung out with my older brother (Trezzavant) and his friends, who were always four or five years older. Since I was smaller than them, they started calling me Stump."

When it came time to play college football, Mitchell had few choices. Because of his size, he didn't become a starter on the high school team until his senior year.

The only colleges interested in him were Army and The Citadel, also a military school, located in South Carolina. Mitchell couldn't

(continued on page 91)

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CHICAGO

When Steve McMichael joined the Chicago Bears, the rules had been changed to allow linemen to aggressively jam pass rushers by extending their arms like heavyweights throwing a punch. The Bears were looking for aggressive blockers and thought about flopping McMichael, a 265-pound defensive tackle known for his wild spirit, to center.

"Playing offensive line is for the birds," McMichael now says. "I mean, you just fall down left and fall down right, don't you? I know those guys talk tough at times. But when a guy drops back to pass, offensive linemen are just punching bags."

Playing on a line that included former Pro Bowlers Dan Hampton and Richard Dent, plus young William Perry, McMichael emerged as a player of star quality on his own.

McMichael can say that because last year he developed into a Pro Bowl defensive tackle. Anyway, the Bears, a team struggling for an identity in the early 1980s, finally dropped the idea of playing him at center and waved him to the defensive side of the ball.

Last season, five years after being cut by the New England Patriots, McMichael made the Pro Bowl to cap a superb year. Playing on a line that included former Pro Bowlers Dan Hampton and Richard Dent, plus young William Perry, McMichael emerged as a player of star quality on his own. He was relentless for 16 games, sliding to the ball and breaking up blocking patterns like some back-alley fighter.

"He's very intelligent," says Bears center Jay Hilgenberg. "He knows an awful lot about pass rushing and fighting off the run blocks. He's a wily and crazy guy."

McMichael has always been smart enough to realize that the best defensive linemen play with controlled anger. "You just can't play this game and be mad at anyone," he says. "You get in a fight, you'll get kicked out of the game."

It was that very mad-at-the-world attitude that was responsible for McMichael's failure to stick with the Patriots. An All-America tackle at Texas, where he had 372 tackles and 30 sacks, McMichael was a third-round draft pick of the Patriots in 1980. The Pats projected McMichael as their nose tackle of the '80s, as a replacement for Ray "Sugar Bear" Hamilton. Instead, McMichael flaunted team rules and kept setting records for fights in camp scrimmages. One year after he arrived, McMichael was waived.

"He wasn't a mistake," said Patriots Vice President Francis "Bucko" Kilroy in a statement that was to prove painfully prophetic. "He's not going to play here, but I think he'll make it with some other team. I don't think he worked at the game like he should have."

McMichael joined the Bears midway through the 1981 season after being cut by the Pats in training camp. A year later, he began tossing his weight and elbows around. Mike Ditka, then a rookie head coach, was not only impressed but thrilled. During his first camp with the Bears, McMichael was dubbed Mungo, King of the Nutcrackers, a reference to the daily one-on-one collision drills.

"McMichael is a throwback," Ditka said at the time. "He really started playing back in 1948 and went through three eras. You've got to like the way he enjoys the game. And you know what, he does just the right amount of bitching to make you know he's around."

McMichael just kept talking about contact, once describing the game as "letting out all of your emotions and aggressions, screaming and hitting somebody full tilt, making the other guys as excited as you are."

As the Bears head into the 1987 season, McMichael and his defensive teammates are still considered the best unit in football. The Bears, who finished 14-2 but were dethroned as Super Bowl champs by the Washington Redskins, allowed the fewest yards per game (258.1) for the third straight year. They gave up an average of 258.4 yards in 1985, their Super Bowl year, and 241.4 in 1984. During those three seasons, the Bears were 43-11 overall, including the playoffs. The main reason

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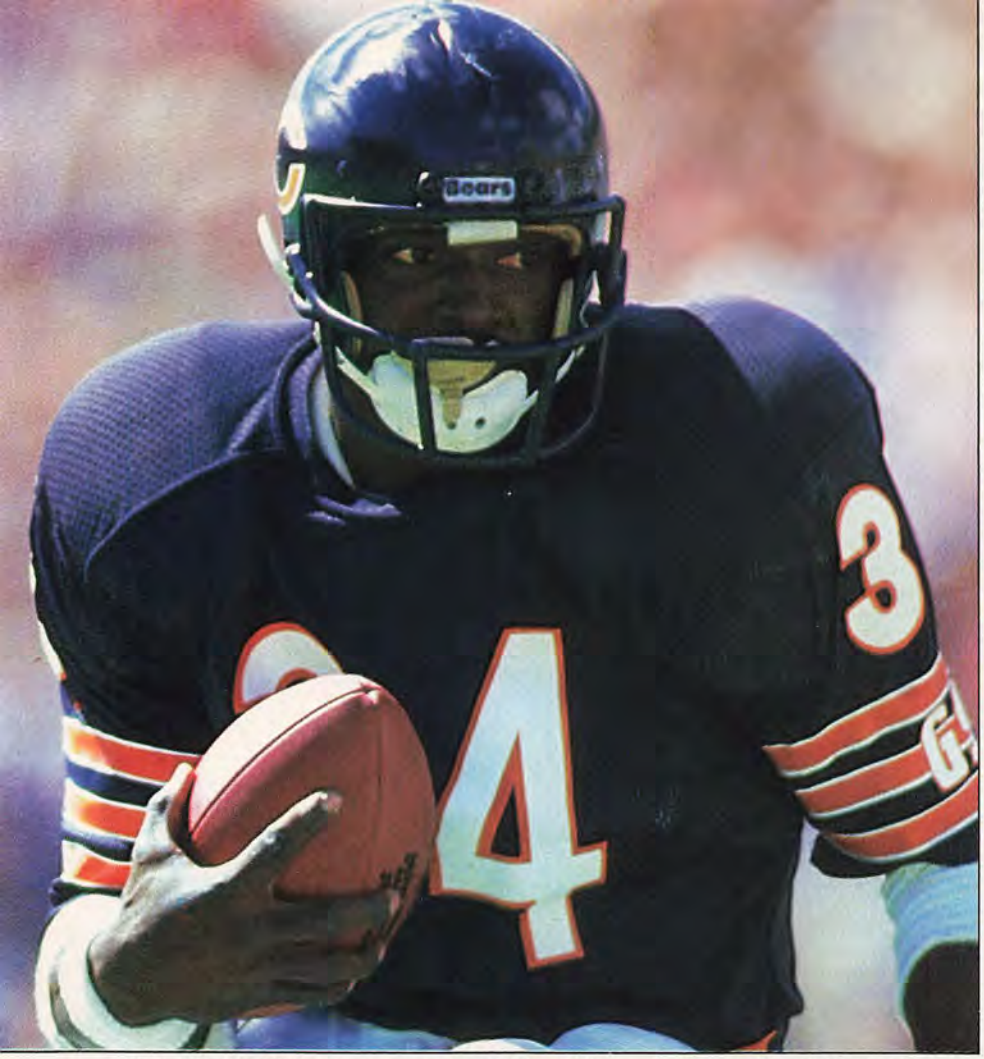
"Breaking up blocking patterns like some back-alley fighter"; the description fits Bears' All-Pro Steve McMichael well.

Bears



Record-holder Walter Payton now eyes 17,000 rushing yards after reaching 16,193 in '86.

(Chicago continued)

was forceful defense, whether it was Buddy Ryan's blitzing, man-to-man 46 defense, or Vince Tobin's change-up defense, with line stunts and disguised zones. In those 54 games, the Bears held 31 opponents to 10 or fewer points and 41 opponents to 20 or fewer points.

McMichael has been a big part of the smothering defense. But Hampton was more quotable. Dent was more controversial. And Refrigerator Perry was instantly more famous after Ditka used him as a 308-pound fullback on national television. Thus, McMichael was relatively obscure until this past season.

"The big thing for Steve is that he comes to play every week and he's consistent," says linebacker Al Harris. "I think those are probably the two big trademarks for him. I thought the year before he should have been All-Pro, the way he was playing."

To the fun-loving McMichael, making All-Pro was inevitable with the Bears. "Ten years down the road," he says, "everybody's going to be All-Pro. Ten years after you retire, you tell everybody, 'Hey, I played for the Bears and I was All-Pro.' And they'll believe you."

McMichael says he has tried to emulate Dick Butkus, the greatest defensive Bear of them all. "I've been trying to pattern my football after his," says McMichael, who has read Butkus' autobiography. "Satisfaction, that's what playing in pain gives you. The thought that you can do something most people can't do, or even think about doing."

There was a time when McMichael was controlled by his wild, sometimes zany lifestyle, instead of the other way around. In his hometown of Freer, Texas, he still has a reputation as an avid hunter of rattlesnakes. He once worked as a bouncer in a Texas bar called The Doll House South. In college, he once caught his hands in the fan belt of a car after hearing a knock in the motor. He was nicknamed Bam-Bam at Texas because of his facial resemblance to a character in *The Flintstones*, an old television cartoon.

"Being not so tall is actually an advantage," McMichael once said when asked about his 6-2 height. "You see all these big, tall defensive linemen getting caught under their chins and being driven 15 yards downfield. It's hard for an offensive lineman to get under me."

As for his famous snake hunts, McMichael still retreats into the Texas brush at least once a year. "That's how I got my quickness," he says. "How do you catch them? Very carefully. It's really not that dangerous. They're afraid of people, and they don't usually strike until someone is six inches away. People pay $5 a pound for them because they eat the meat and use the skins."

At Freer High School, McMichael says he played fullback, tight end, kicker and inside linebacker as a senior. "There were only 54 students, half of them girls, in my class," he says. "We lost only three games in three years."

He was heavily recruited by Alabama as a tight end, then decided that he really wanted to play defense at Texas. "But the first day at Texas, they put me with the tight ends," McMichael recalls. "A guy who was at defensive tackle wanted to play tight end, so he lost weight on purpose. I put on weight and pretty soon we just swapped positions."

McMichael carried his tenacious, free-spirited style all the way to the pros. Remembering the day he was cut by the Patriots, McMichael muses: "When they let me go, they said I was too wild, that I was a bad element. But that was back in my wilder days. There comes a time when you have to put childish things aside. And I think it really adds to my football, because I can concentrate on it more now."

At 29, McMichael is in the prime of his career. Around him the Bears have assembled an awesome defense that includes nine players who have made the Pro Bowl. Only the cornerbacks, Mike Richardson and Vestee Jackson, and Perry haven't been so honored by their peers.

Behind the solid Hampton-McMichael-Perry-Dent line, the Bears start three terrific linebackers: defensive captain and signal caller Mike Singletary inside and Wilber Marshall and Otis Wilson outside. No other unit in the league is as quick in flowing to the ball. Marshall had a remarkable year with 105 tackles, five interceptions, five and a half sacks, three fumble recoveries and four forced fumbles.

The secondary, which once had problems with man-to-man coverages in the 46 defense, adapted nicely to a zone-man mix and had 22 of the club's 31 interceptions. Strong safety Dave Duerson led the unit with 109 tackles, six interceptions and seven sacks on deftly timed blitzes. Free safety Gary Fencik became the Bears' career interception leader with 38.

As a unit, the defense allowed only 187 points, fewest ever for a 16-game season, and four rushing touchdowns. It had 62 sacks, only two fewer than the previous year, when opposing teams threw nine more passes. As impressive as the Bears were on defense, the takeaway-giveaway comparison was dead-even, 47-47. A year ago, it was plus 23.

The Bears' haunting problem at quarterback continued through an otherwise championship season. Starter Jim McMahon led the Bears to six straight victories, then injured his right shoulder. He underwent major surgery on Dec. 12. Meanwhile, the Bears were forced to use Mike Tomczak, Steve Fuller and, finally, 5-9 Doug Flutie.

Flutie's presence irked McMahon. The release of receiver Ken Margerum, a close friend,

angered McMahon. In every corner of the Bears' boisterous dressing room, it seemed, somebody had an opinion on Flutie. But the opinion that counted was Ditka's. "This kid has character and charisma," insisted Ditka. "I've been here five years, and he's the only quarterback I've seen who is here early in the morning, studying films."

McMahon's future after shoulder surgery is uncertain. Assuming they find a quarterback, the Bears have enough talent to win another Super Bowl. The running game is solid, with nine-time Pro Bowler Walter Payton and young Neal Anderson and Thomas Sanders. Fullback Matt Suhey is a capable blocker. The blocking line features Jimbo Covert, voted the league's Lineman of the Year, and Pro Bowl center Hilgenberg. Tackle Keith Van Horne and guards Tom Thayer and Mark Bortz are the other starters upfront. Despite a parade of quarterbacks, the Bears allowed only 24 sacks and opened enough holes to lead the league in rushing (168.8-yard average).

Fleet Willie Gault and Keith Ortego can fly as outside receivers, and Emery Moorehead and Tim Wrightman aren't bad as blocking tight ends. The Bears could use a healthy Dennis McKinnon, another speedy receiver, who missed the season after knee surgery. Kicker Kevin Butler slumped, making good 28 of 41 field-goal tries, but punter Maury Buford had a 41.3-yard average, with 19 punts downed inside the 20. Kickoff returner Dennis Gentry was even more impressive, leading the league with a 28.8-yard average, including a 91-yard touchdown return.

Jim McMahon never got back after his injury.

Coach Mike Ditka moved past some venerable company with the '86 season. By leading the Bears to a 14-2 mark, Ditka improved his five-year totals to 54-25, a .684 winning percentage. That surpasses team founder George Halas' coaching mark of .673. His 40-year record was 326-151-31.

"It was a pretty gratifying season, with 14 wins," says Hilgenberg. "But to have it end like it did was a big disappointment. Knowing these guys, that will stick in their craw until September."

Says linebacker Mike Singletary: "When we don't go to the Super Bowl, from now on it's not going to be a great year for the Bears. It was a long year for us. We went through a lot. Hopefully, the changes we're going through now will be for the better."

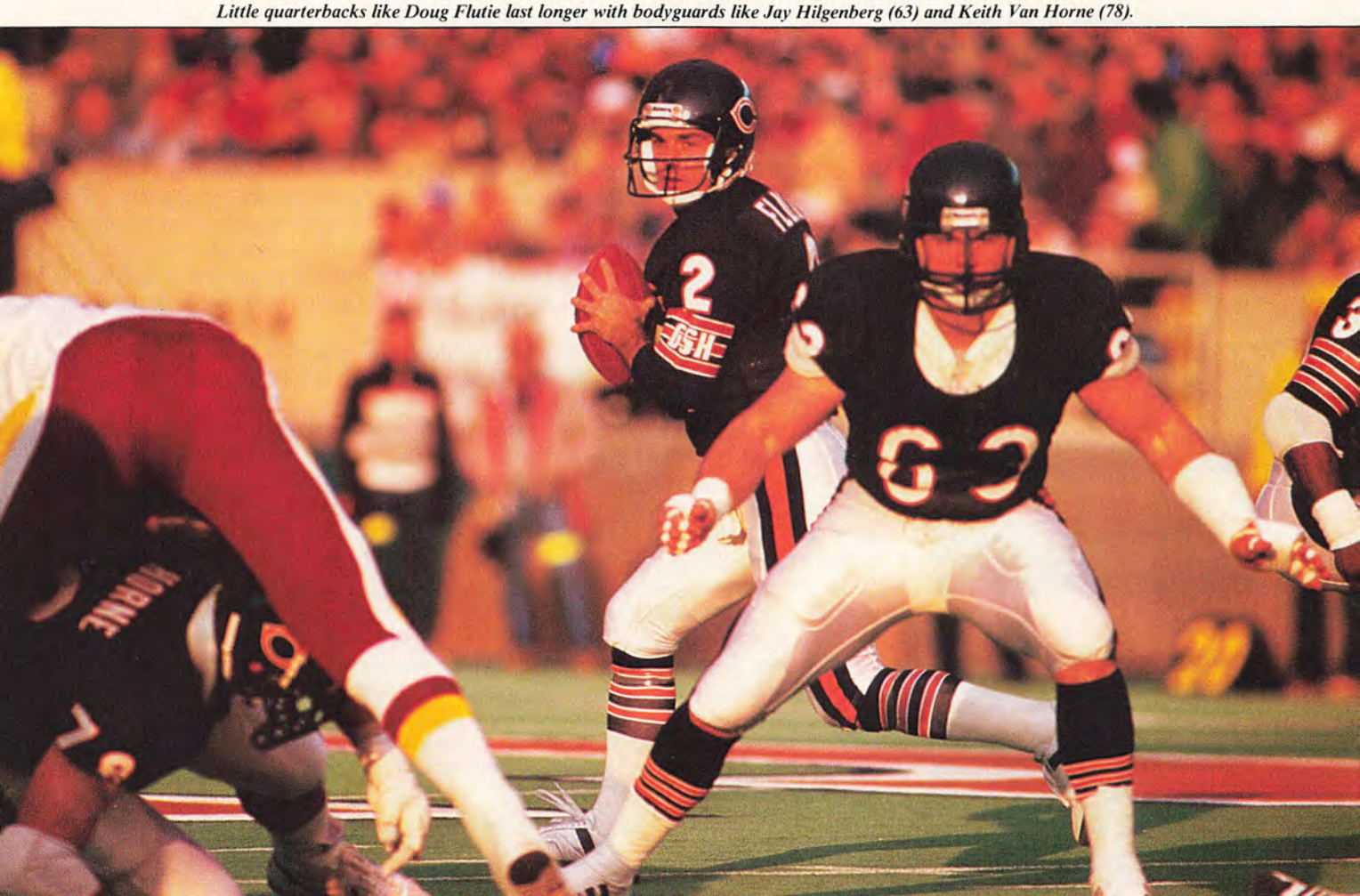
One unexpected change was the firing of General Manager Jerry Vainisi by club President Michael McCaskey in what amounted to a power struggle. Vainisi was a close friend of Ditka. But even away from the team, Vainisi sensed the Bears would make it all the way back.

"The Bears will be a much better team next season," says Vainisi. "There's just too much talent there for them to fall apart again."

Vainisi, who was hired by Detroit, may be right. But first, the Bears need Jim McMahon healthy, or a genuine replacement.

END

Little quarterbacks like Doug Flutie last longer with bodyguards like Jay Hilgenberg (63) and Keith Van Horne (78).



MINNESOTA

There's an old line that's been around the National Football League longer than Minnesota Coach Jerry Burns, who's been coaching in the pros since 1966. The line is: Sometimes the best deal is the one you don't make.

The Vikings believe it. Two years ago, when they were concerned about quarterback Tommy Kramer's streak of injuries, the Vikings tried hard to obtain Bernie Kosar. But Cleveland tried harder, got Kosar in a special supplemental draft and left the Vikings with Kramer's thick file of knee and shoulder problems.

Somehow, it's all worked out. After throwing a league-high 26 interceptions in 1985 (Kosar threw only seven that year as a rookie), Kramer made an amazing comeback last season. Surrounded by better talent, he threw 24 touchdown passes and only 10 interceptions to edge Miami's Dan Marino 92.6 to 92.5 for the best quarterback rating in the NFL. In a game against Green Bay, which had the fifth-best pass defense in the conference, Kramer fired six TD passes, one short of the league record. He directed the Vikings to a 23-7 upset of the Chicago Bears, leaving the game in the third quarter with a stiff shoulder.

"Inside the five, where you need a pivotal play, he doesn't shirk his job when it comes to making the throw or the decision."

"When he's physically 100 percent," says Burns (his players call him Burnsie), "he's as good as anyone. But he's had a history of injuries and some guys can't shake them. I think Tommy Kramer is a blue-chip, big-league quarterback, among the top six to eight quarterbacks in the league."

It hasn't been easy for Kramer, who finally made the Pro Bowl last season at age 31. In 10 seasons with the Vikings, Kramer has thrown for 22,153 yards and 143 touchdowns, 10,945 fewer yards and 96 fewer touchdowns than Fran Tarkenton's club marks set in 13 seasons. Kramer missed two games in 1981 because of a knee injury, 13 in 1983 because of knee surgery and seven in 1984 with a shoulder separation. There was also an alcohol problem that required rehabilitation.

"I don't think any area of my game has really improved," says Kramer. "I think the change in the system (the Vikings hired a new offensive coordinator, Bob Schnelker) has helped me to be more productive. It's a deeper passing game, not nickel-and-dime stuff all the time. We're going downfield with the ball. We're setting up things with players to go downfield—play-action passes and things like that.

"And I'm getting more time to pass. That helped cut down my interceptions. The strength of the offensive line has made a difference. When you've got time to throw the football, you're able to see things and you don't throw as many interceptions."

Says Burns of Kramer: "He's a true competitor. Inside the five, where you need a pivotal play, he doesn't shirk his job when it comes to making the throw or the decision."

Kramer was an obvious target of the Bloomington boo-birds during 1984, when the Vikings went 3-13 under Les Steckel. Burns wasn't around then, having resigned after being snubbed for the top coaching job. 1985 saw the return of Coach Bud Grant and a 7-9 campaign. But last season, with Burns back and Kramer hitting almost every receiver who was open, the jeers turned to cheers.

"All that goes along with winning," says Kramer. "If a team's not winning, the fans aren't going to appreciate you. But when you win, it's kind of hard to find a scapegoat."

The worst part of it for Kramer was the strike-shortened 1982 season. The Vikings made the playoffs with a 5-4 record but were eliminated in the second round by Washington. Kramer had a big year (2,037 yards in nine games, his 10th and 11th 300-yard games), but also got caught up in the post-game revelry.

Former Vikings receiver Ahmad Rashad, playing his final year in 1982, wrote a magazine diary in which he told of Kramer celebrating by "singing with the band at one of the biggest hangouts in Minneapolis." Kramer shrugged it off, noting that he had grown up in a strict environment (San Antonio, Texas, one of 11 children). "Maybe I was just trying to make up for lost time," he said. Soon, however, he had checked into a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center.

(continued)

Spirits of Vikings fans will be at a high pitch if Tommy Kramer has the kind of year he did in '86: No. 1 in the NFL in passing efficiency.

Riddell

Tackle Gary Zimmerman (65), acquired from the Giants, holds up under the strain of defensive pounding.

(Minnesota continued)

Kramer says he isn't troubled by criticism he has received in the past.

"I never let it bother me before and I won't ever let it bother me again," he told Bob Sansevere of the *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*. "You're always going to have people who are jealous or vindictive. If everybody minded their own business, they would be a lot better off."

Over the next two years, Kramer missed 20 games with knee and shoulder problems. But Burns, who has seen scramblers like Tarkenton, dropback specialists like Bob Berry and wobbly throwers like Joe Kapp in a 16-year career as the Vikings' offensive coordinator, never gave up on his quarterback. After the retirement of the legendary Grant in 1983 and the disastrous 1984 season with Steckel, things began turning around for Tommy Kramer.

He married in June, 1983, and he and Carrie Kramer became parents of a daughter, Cassandra Jean, the following year. In 1985 Kramer began a streak of two straight seasons without a major injury. Meanwhile, the Vikings started to add fresh talent from the collapsing United States Football League.

With General Manager Mike Lynn pulling the strings, they added offensive tackle Gary Zimmerman in a trade with the New York Giants, wide receiver Anthony Carter in a trade with the Miami Dolphins, defensive tackle Keith Millard in a buy-out deal with the Jacksonville Bulls, and linebacker David Howard in a supplemental draft. The NFL draft produced linebacker Chris Doleman, cornerback Issiac Holt and center Kirk Lowdermilk in 1985 and defensive end Gerald Robinson, defensive tackle Joe Phillips, tight end Carl Hilton and wide receiver Hassan Jones in 1986.

"After the first Bears game (a 23-0 loss), the guys grew confident that they could play with the top five or six teams," says Burns. "I don't think they stood in awe of any team. But they still recognize they've got a lot of maturing to do. And we're not strong enough to beat a contending team when our top people are on the injured list."

After seven games, the Vikings were 5-2 and Lynn was talking about the championship if, he said, "some of the spokes don't break." They did. Kramer missed a key game against Cincinnati because of a sprained thumb. Millard was hobbled late in the season with a gimpy knee. Robinson chipped a bone below his knee, was out for four weeks and hampered afterward.

Whatever the lineup, Kramer played spectacularly. Besides throwing six scoring passes against the Packers, he passed for a Vikings' record of 490 yards in a six-point overtime loss to Washington.

"Against Green Bay, I could've had as perfect a game as any I have ever had just by getting the ball to my receivers a couple of more times," Kramer says. "It was almost to the point where those guys were so open that I could have thrown completions every time. Everything was clicking. Everything was there. If I had hit everything I should have, it would have been a perfect game."

Kramer was the 27th player taken in the 1977 draft and the only quarterback ever drafted in the first round by the Vikings. He sat two seasons behind Tarkenton, then took over Grant's controlled pass offense. In his first three seasons as a starter, Kramer threw for 3,397, 3,582 and 3,912 yards. Yet the Vikings went 7-9, 9-7 and 7-9 as an entertaining .500 team in those three seasons, with Kramer throwing 1,681 passes, 68 for touchdowns.

(continued on page 48)

Tim Newton, a promising young tackle in his third year, is wrapped in his work.

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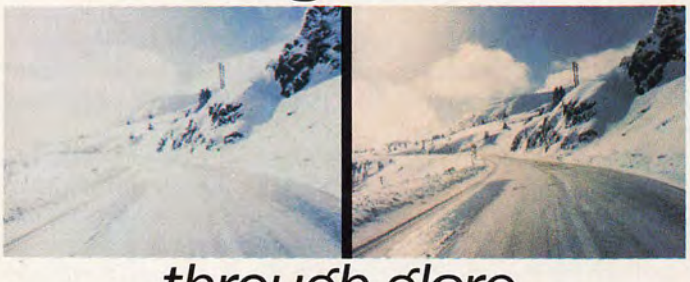

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DETROIT

With two games left last season, Detroit's Jeff Chadwick needed only a five-yard sideline catch to reach 1000 yards, a notable achievement for the free-agent wide receiver. It would have been notable, too, for the Lions, who haven't had a lot to celebrate since winning the NFC Central Division four years ago.

Chadwick, however, tore his Achilles tendon and finished with a 53-catch, 995-yard season, which is the way things have been going for the Lions under Darryl Rogers, their coach since 1985. And with the Chicago Bears still formidable and the Minnesota Vikings coming on, it isn't going to get any easier for the unpredictable Lions. Chadwick, who graduated from Grand Valley (Mich.) State, a Division II school, at least gives the Lions hope on offense as a deceiving deep threat.

"I want to get to where I don't drop any passes," says Chadwick, a fifth-year receiver with 4.5 speed and long, racehorse strides. "All receivers drop them. There are times when you think you have them, but you lose your concentration. I think if I had caught everything thrown my way, I would have had 1000 yards last year."

And if every Lion receiver had caught every ball thrown to him by the quarterback shuffle of Eric Hipple, Joe Ferguson and rookie Chuck Long, and the defense hadn't blown so many tackles, the Lions would have finished 8-8 instead of 5-11. The worst part of it was that the Lions were 1-7 at home in the Silverdome.

"I want to get to where I don't drop any passes. . . . All receivers drop them. There are times when you think you have them, but you lose your concentration."

"The first time we make a mistake in a game, they boo us," says Chadwick. "They should have filmed that movie *Ruthless People* at the Silverdome."

The boos were largely directed at the Lions' rush line, which couldn't stop the run, and a mediocre running attack that produced only 110.7 yards a game, a dramatic drop from 1980, when the Lions averaged 174.7 yards. That was the Billy Sims-Dexter Bussey era. The Lions came out running and dared anybody to stop them. Seven years later, they are entering the Chuck Long era, when they are expected to come out throwing.

Chadwick is a big part of Rogers' pass offense, which ranked 19th last year with 174 yards a game and only 18 touchdowns. The Lions used Hipple for the first 10 games, Ferguson in 11 through 14 and Long in the final two. Chadwick was helped by the acquisition of tight end Jimmie Giles from Tampa Bay in a midseason waiver deal. In the first half of the season, before Giles began playing, Chadwick averaged three catches a game and 18.2 yards per catch. Over the next six games, with Giles in the lineup, Chadwick's averages jumped to five catches and 19.2 yards.

The Lions also seemed to open up when Ferguson replaced Hipple. Chadwick, who had a shaky start with a number of juggled incompletions, caught 72- and 73-yard passes from Ferguson and had a 68-yarder called back.

"I'm impressed with Chadwick as an athlete," says Rogers. "He doesn't jump out at you. But after you've been around him for a while, you begin to appreciate him."

Chadwick came into the league as an afterthought. Ignored in the 1983 draft that produced fullback James Jones (No. 1), offensive tackle Rich Strenger (No. 2), linebackers Mike Cofer (No. 3) and August Curley (No. 4), safety Demetrious Johnson (No. 5) and center Steve Mott (No. 5), Chadwick made the Lions that year as a spot receiver.

Pro scouts said he was too light (6-3, 176) and too slow. "They timed me at 4.75 as a junior and never came back," says Chadwick. Actually, he could run a legitimate 4.5 and elude defenders with his long stride. "The guy had me running in tall grass," recalls Chadwick of his pedestrian time for 40 yards at Grand Valley. "Word gets around among the scouting services, so there was no reason for anybody else to bother with me."

At Grand Valley, Chadwick was first used as a defensive back and punt returner. The experiment never really worked out, and he was returned to offense late in his

(continued)

Jeff Chadwick legged out his 53 catches last season for just under 1000 yards.

With NT Eric Williams (left) and WR Pete Mandley, the Lions could be dangerous.

(Detroit continued)

freshman year. With quarterback Steve Michuta (an 11th-round Cleveland pick in 1982) throwing, Chadwick developed into a legitimate draft prospect. "But somebody got that bad time on him," says Jim Harkema, then Grand Valley's coach. Then Lions tight end Rob Rubick, another Grand Valley star, suggested to Joe Bushofsky, Detroit's player personnel director, that the Lions time Chadwick again. "I'm a 4.4-4.5 guy," says Chadwick. "They got me on a track and I ran it."

Ironically, the 57-day players strike in 1982 helped the Lions get a feel for Chadwick's talents. Assistant coach Larry Seiple, with time on his hands, made the 300-mile round trip to Grand Valley often enough to persuade the Lions to gamble on Chadwick's potential.

As a rookie, Chadwick survived the final cut by beating enough defenses with his deceiving stride and knack for finding the gaps. In a game against Cleveland, he was open for what could have been the biggest catch of his first season and blew it. The Lions trailed in the final minute in their first home game 31-26. But Detroit had the ball at the Browns' 38-yard line. Chadwick got open on a deep inside move, but Gary Danielson's pass glanced off his arm and fell away. So did the game.

But Chadwick never lost his confidence. Later in the season, in a Monday night game against Minnesota, he caught five passes for 89 yards, including a 10-yard scoring toss from Hipple. The Lions won 13-2, and Chadwick earned a game ball. Another Chadwick catch for 83 yards was called back because of an ineligible lineman downfield.

In Chadwick's four seasons, the Lions have known both extremes. They won a division title in 1983, their first championship of any kind since 1957, when they won an NFL title behind Tobin Rote's four touchdown passes. But over the next three years, they've been

(continued on page 89)

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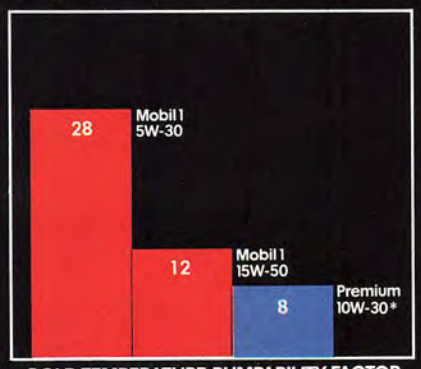

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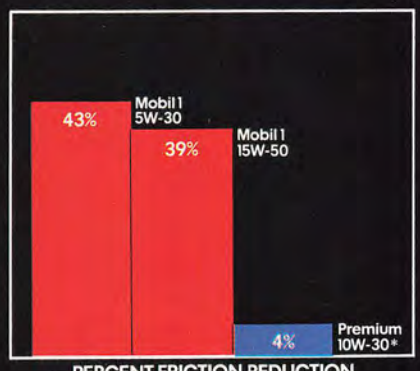

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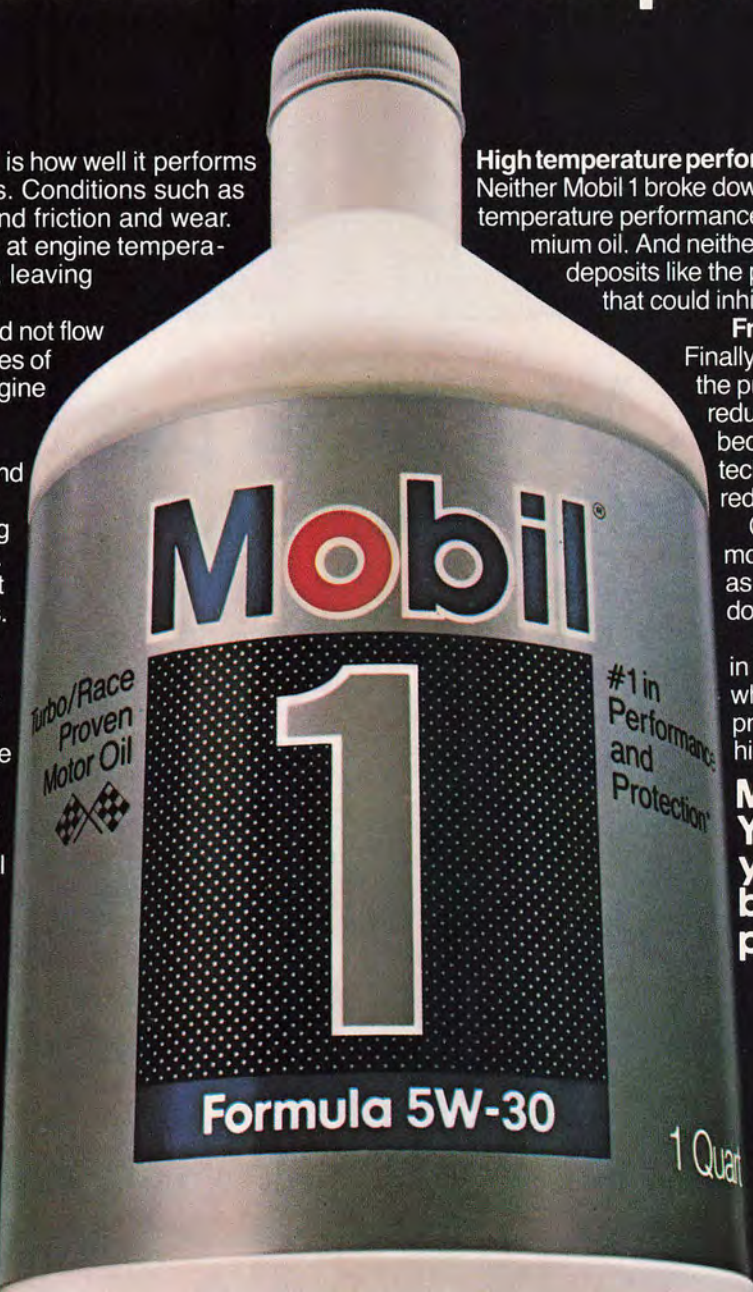

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Parcells: Blue-Collar Guy, Blue-Ribbon Coach

by Bill Lyon

Mostly, there is his total and utter lack of pretense. Asked to describe himself in one word, Bill Parcells replies without hesitation: "Overweight."

He calls himself a lunch-pail kind of guy, reserves his greatest respect for blue-collar players, revels in the truck-stop lifestyle. He is in a profession whose practitioners somberly assure us is only slightly less complex than laser surgery, and yet his triumphs are punctuated by nothing more lavish than a Gatorade shower. A New York Giants' win is official only when the ritual tub of smush has been dumped on the coach.

Some people get to the top, and they falsify their pedigree, try to make you think they have always been accustomed to the good life. Bill Parcells is astride the pinnacle now, and, to make sure he doesn't put on phony airs, he will recite in self-deprecating detail his past humiliations.

"I was pretty hot stuff in high school (River Dell in Oradell, N.J.), three-sport star and all that, and then one summer—I was about 17—I got a job with a roofing company. I was used to carry stuff. Kind of like a pack mule. If we dropped anything off the scaffold, I was the guy who had to go down and get it."

He relates this, not with bitterness, but with undisguised glee. That kind of retrieving, he explains, taught him something about humility.

Columbia offered him a scholarship. Bill Parcells in the Ivies? It just didn't fit. So he went to Wichita State instead. It meant having to take another one of those glamorous off-season jobs. This one was in a meat packing plant. Aromatic work.

"I used to push those hogs along," he recalls, with obvious relish. "The biggest thing was having to count how many hogs you pushed through by the end of the day. Some days, I'd push 1,300."

From that, he learned the value of patience and persistence.

His first coaching job was at tiny Hastings College in Nebraska. He was an assistant, and he was paid the princely sum of $1,000 a month. Before practice, he lined the field. After practice, he washed the dirty uniforms. ("Cold Power worked the best.") He moved on. First to Wichita State, then to West Point. Then to Florida State ("All us assistant coaches used to start the day by dragging ropes over the field to remove the morning dew.") Then Vanderbilt. Then Texas Tech. Finally, a head-coaching job, at the Air Force Academy, where he went 3-8 and promptly left.

It is the usual nomadic resume of coaching. Move after move after move. He settled in, at last, as defensive coordinator with the Giants. That was in 1981. The team immediately went to the playoffs. Parcells had made his mark. "We felt," says George Young, the general manager, "that if Bill could coach half the team, he could probably coach the whole team." He could, indeed. And would.

You win a Super Bowl and right away they want to anoint you a genius. But Bill Parcells—his actual name is Duane Charles Parcells—recoils in horror at the notion of being singled out as something special. Maybe it is the memory of retrieving things from the scaffolding or pushing hogs or doing a team's laundry.

Anyway, this is Parcells' reaction: "Hey, don't tell me nothing. It's a short walk to the end of the road, pal. I'm not interested in being known around the country. I'll just hang around Hackensack. I'm just like anyone else. I'm not trying to give you any humility lesson here. But really, I'm just a guy. I go to work. I work at my

(continued)

What has become a Giants' tradition reached a splashy climax in the Super Bowl when . . .

. . . linebacker Harry Carson sneaked up on Coach Parcells near the end of a certain victory . . .

. . . and drenched him with a bucket of a beverage, draining every drop.

(Parcells continued)

job. I like my job. I've been very, very, very lucky. Not too many people get to do what they want to do and have it turn out exactly the way they dreamed."

True. He is hometown Jersey. Nawth Joisey. Parcells grew up a Giants fan. ("I went to my first Giants game in the Polo Grounds in 1954 and was hooked.") Thirty-three years later he coached them into the Super Bowl, and then to victory. And he was named Coach of the Year. Right up there with Tom Landry and Don Shula and Bill Walsh, with their squinty stoicism and jut-jawed combativeness and white-haired academia.

But can you visualize any of the Cowboys gleefully dousing Landry with Gatorade? Any of the Dolphins playfully schmoozing on the sidelines with Shula? Any of the 49ers cheerfully calling Walsh by a nickname that implies, without subtlety, a physical slur? Of course not. It would be considered a sacrilege, grossly irreverent.

Yet the Giants have their ceremonial bathing of the coach. And they call him—to his face—Tuna. (Linebacker Harry Carson: "Because he's big and fat, like Charlie the Tuna.") Parcells in turn, mercilessly needles them. The locker room is freewheeling and roisterous. And yet he remains, firmly, without question, in command.

"The shower, that's become a tradition," says Carson, who is entrusted with doing the liquid honors. "It is always done with affection. Because we kid around with him, don't think we don't respect him. And don't think he isn't the man in charge."

Phil McConkey, the free-spirited wide receiver: "Different people have to be treated in different ways, and Bill has learned how to get through to each one of us. What really makes him stand out is that he is such a great manager of people. Handling people is more important than designing plays for a head coach. It's the most important thing for any manager."

Lawrence Taylor, the brooding giant of a linebacker: "When I had my troubles (substance abuse), he helped arrange for my treatment and then protected my privacy. He helped me more than anyone."

Carson again: "He's a great motivator because he knows exactly what to say. He knows what things will really eat at you."

Jim Burt, the nose tackle: "He knows what gets me to react. It used to bother me that he used me as a tool to psych up the other guys. But it doesn't bother me anymore. I know him too well now."

Parcells, in fact, goes out of his way to make sure that his entire squad knows him. One of his personal goals each day is to say something, even if it is only a sentence or two, to every Giants player.

"I do things a certain way," he explains, "but I don't ask the players' nature to correspond with my nature. I want them to be themselves

and relax. I also want them to know their role on the team, and those roles are always changing. So I try to talk to my players every day, individually, to sit down and visit with them. Besides, that's the fun part of being a coach. It makes me feel like I'm 25 again. Heck, if I couldn't do that, I'd get out of the business."

Well, maybe.

Like most overnight successes, Parcells' beginning was uncertain. His first year as head coach, the 1983 Giants went 3-12-1. At one time or another, 25 different players were on injured reserve. If that wasn't depressing enough, running back Doug Kotar died of a brain tumor, and assistant coach Bob Ledbetter died of a stroke. And both of Parcells' parents fell ill, then died six weeks apart. His job was in jeopardy. No one could possibly have foreseen that the Super Bowl was just three years away.

"At that point," Parcells affirms, "all I could see in my future was a toilet bowl. That was a very difficult time. I got through it because I decided not to let *them* get me. I didn't know who *they* were exactly. All I knew was that I wasn't going to let *them* get me. I was determined to go on with more resolve than ever."

Since then, the Giants have gone 38-17, reached the playoffs three straight years, and, of course, won it all. Along the way, Parcells weeded out anyone who wasn't either a lunch-pail talent or possessed of a lunch-pail mentality. On the Giants' Super Bowl squad, only 11 players remained from the last game before Parcells took over.

"I coach better when I have good players," he says, grinning. "There used to be a tremendous amount of negativism around this team, and that didn't change until 1984. The guys we have now are totally dedicated. I like those parking-lot players. Those are guys who, if I told 'em there was a game at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning in the parking lot, they'd show up ready to play.

"I always felt I knew what I was doing," he says of the tumultuous first season. "It's a matter of getting it going, getting things in place, and having enough time to get things in place. Unfortunately, this is a volatile business, and the one thing they're reluctant to give you is time. It started with baseball managers, and then it got to be like bell-bottom pants. It caught on. You can't change the players, so you change coaches. Then the new coach comes in and he changes some players. Then they go back and change coaches, then he changes players. It's a cycle."

If there is anything more certain than that cycle, it is Parcells' superstitions. His life is awash with them, beginning with his early-morning coffee stops on the way to work at the Meadowlands—two cups at Elmer's in Upper Saddle River, N.J., at 5:50 a.m., two more to go at Christiana's in Wood-Ridge, at 6:20 a.m. His office is littered with elephants. Brass ones, mostly. All with their trunks facing up, all of them facing the door. His Italian mother convinced him that elephants, when used the right way, bring good luck.

There is a penny, tails up, on the floor of Parcells' dressing stall, another on the bottom of his locker. They stay there permanently. Janitors are instructed to clean around them. The coach has been known to stop his car and back up to "erase" a black cat's crossing his path. There are dozens more superstitions, each with an elaborate ritual.

What, Parcells was asked, would happen if he and his players ignored them and just went out and played? "It would be a disaster," he promptly answers. "We'd be down 28 to nothing at the end of the first quarter. You don't tempt fate."

He endures all the ribbing, laughing and shrugging. But the rituals remain unchanged.

One other thing doesn't change, either. That is Parcells, and maybe what best describes him is the Steve McDonald story. McDonald is a New York City policeman who was shot and became a quadriplegic. In the summer of 1986, his family telephoned the Giants at training camp and explained that McDonald was a Giants fan and wondered if a player could come and visit him.

When Bill Parcells heard about the call, he didn't send a player. He went himself.

END

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Running back Darrin Nelson gets high marks in the Vikings' high-ranking offense.

(Minnesota continued)

It was during those early years that Kramer began specializing in late-game heroics as a two-minute quarterback. Soon he was known as Two-Minute Tommy. But the Vikings weren't consistent winners and suffered through some mediocre drafts. And when it got around that Kramer was leading an adventurous life after dark, the fans let him have it.

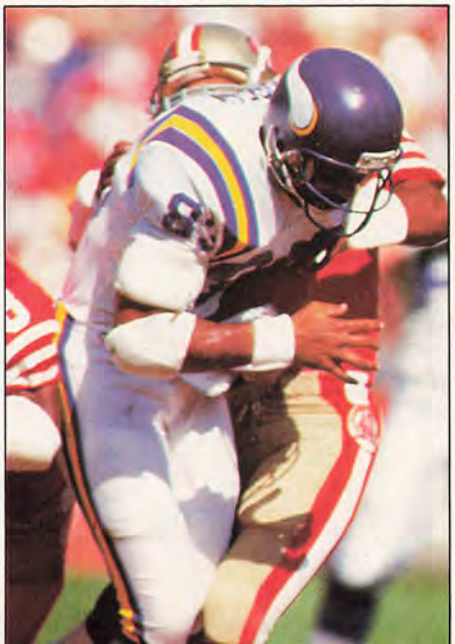
"Times like that, you wonder why they don't give the guy a break," says center Dennis Swilley. "It was nice to hear an ovation last year, nice to hear all of those closet quarterbacks come out and cheer him. The thing about Tommy, good days or bad, nothing changes him. He just keeps playing hard."

It was that way when Kramer was a kid growing up in San Antonio, where he was a football and basketball star. His father, Col. John Kramer, coached at Texas Lutheran. Three of his older brothers were college quarterbacks.

"Probably the person who's had the greatest influence on my life has been my father," says Kramer. "A lot of people made an impact and helped me become a better person. The thing about my dad was that I was the youngest of 11 children, so by the time I was ready to go into high school, he had more time to spend with me than he did with the other kids. He never pushed me, but he set up drills that made me a better athlete and football player."

Kramer threw a football through a hanging tire in the backyard, just the way his father suggested. Said Col. Kramer to his youngest son, "If you want to throw the football and build strength in your arm and increase your accuracy and develop a touch, then follow these drills."

Steve Jordan: picked for his first Pro Bowl.



Later, Kramer quarterbacked Robert E. Lee High School to a state championship, earning a scholarship to Rice. As a senior, he led the NCAA with 3,317 passing yards and 21 touchdowns. The Vikings liked his style and accuracy, and took it from there.

It took Kramer 10 seasons to make the Pro Bowl. Now, at the peak of his career, he faces an uncertain timetable as the quarterback of a youthful team with Super Bowl ambitions. But as Vince Lombardi, under whom Jerry Burns once coached, used to say, potential is the heaviest burden of all in this game.

The offensive line, bolstered by Zimmerman and anchored by Swilley, a 10-year veteran, has its best seasons still ahead. Guards Jim Hough and Terry Tausch, and tackle Tim Irwin complete the unit that helped the Vikings rank second in the NFL in passing offense. The receiving corps that includes Carter (38 catches for 686 yards, 7 TDs), Pro Bowl tight end Steve Jordan (58-859-6) and 5-8 Leo Lewis (32-600-2) is fast and solid. Running back Darrin Nelson, a first-round draft pick in 1982, had 53 catches and 793 yards rushing. He needs only to stay healthy to be a consistent big-play contributor. Young fullback Alfred Anderson is developing.

The defense, coached by Floyd Peters, is young and tough, particularly upfront where Millard, Robinson, end Doug Martin and 300-pound tackle Tim Newton are stationed. Doleman has moved to end from linebacker. Linebacker Jesse Solomon, a 12th-round pick in 1986, not only made the team but played well enough to be mentioned as Scott Studwell's successor. The other backers, David Howard, Walker Lee Ashley and Chris Martin, are young and full of potential.

Strong safety Joey Browner has developed into a Pro Bowl star. He and corner Willie Teal will hit anything that moves in the secondary. Holt, the other corner, stole eight passes last season. John Harris (90 tackles, three interceptions) is at free safety.

The kicking game was impressive except when punter Greg Coleman pulled a groin muscle during the warmups against Cleveland. The Vikings wound up losing that key game on a blocked punt. Otherwise, Coleman averaged 41.4 yards a punt, and placekicker Chuck Nelson, a young journeyman signed as a free agent to replace Jan Stenerud, hit 22 of 28 field goals.

Suddenly it's fun again for the Vikings, who finished 9-7 with a roster of youthful hustlers and believers in Jerry Burns. Eliminate that blocked punt against the Browns and they would have been 10-6. In this kind of atmosphere, it was relatively easy for Burns to introduce the players to Norman Temnograd, a Soviet-trained weight coach who emigrated from Russia in 1976. Nothing is ever certain in the NFC Central, except that this year, nobody will push the Vikings around.

END

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That's right. Campbell Soup Company is proud to sponsor its 1987 Football Trivia Quiz Sweepstakes in which you could win a four-day vacation for two in Hawaii, including round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations and $500 food and fun money, plus two tickets to the Hula Bowl. And, the first 1000 entrants win a Campbell's 1987 Football Handbook. Either way, you're a winner.

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Makes 4 servings.

CHILI-CHICKEN TACOS In 2-quart saucepan over medium heat, in 1 tablespoon hot salad oil, cook ½ cup chopped onion with 1 tablespoon chili powder and 1 medium clove minced garlic, until tender. Stir in 1 can (11½ oz.) Campbell's® Condensed Bean with Bacon Soup and ½ cup sour cream; mix well. Add 1½ cups diced, cooked chicken and heat thoroughly. Spoon chicken mixture evenly into 8 taco shells. Top with shredded cheddar cheese, shredded lettuce and/or diced tomatoes.

Makes 8 tacos or 4 servings.

Star Food Products

BEEFY MINESTRONE In 2-quart saucepan combine 1 can (11 oz.) Campbell's® Condensed Beef Soup, 1 can (10½ oz.) Campbell's® Condensed Minestrone Soup and 1 can (8 oz.) stewed tomatoes, cut-up. Simmer over medium heat, stirring occasionally. Top soup bowls with seasoned croutons, if desired.

Makes 6 servings.

BACON 'N ONION CHOWDER In 1-quart saucepan, heat 1 can (19 oz.) Campbell's® Chunky New England Clam Chowder; stir occasionally. Ladle soup into soup bowls; sprinkle with 2 teaspoons real bacon bits and 1 small green onion, thinly sliced.

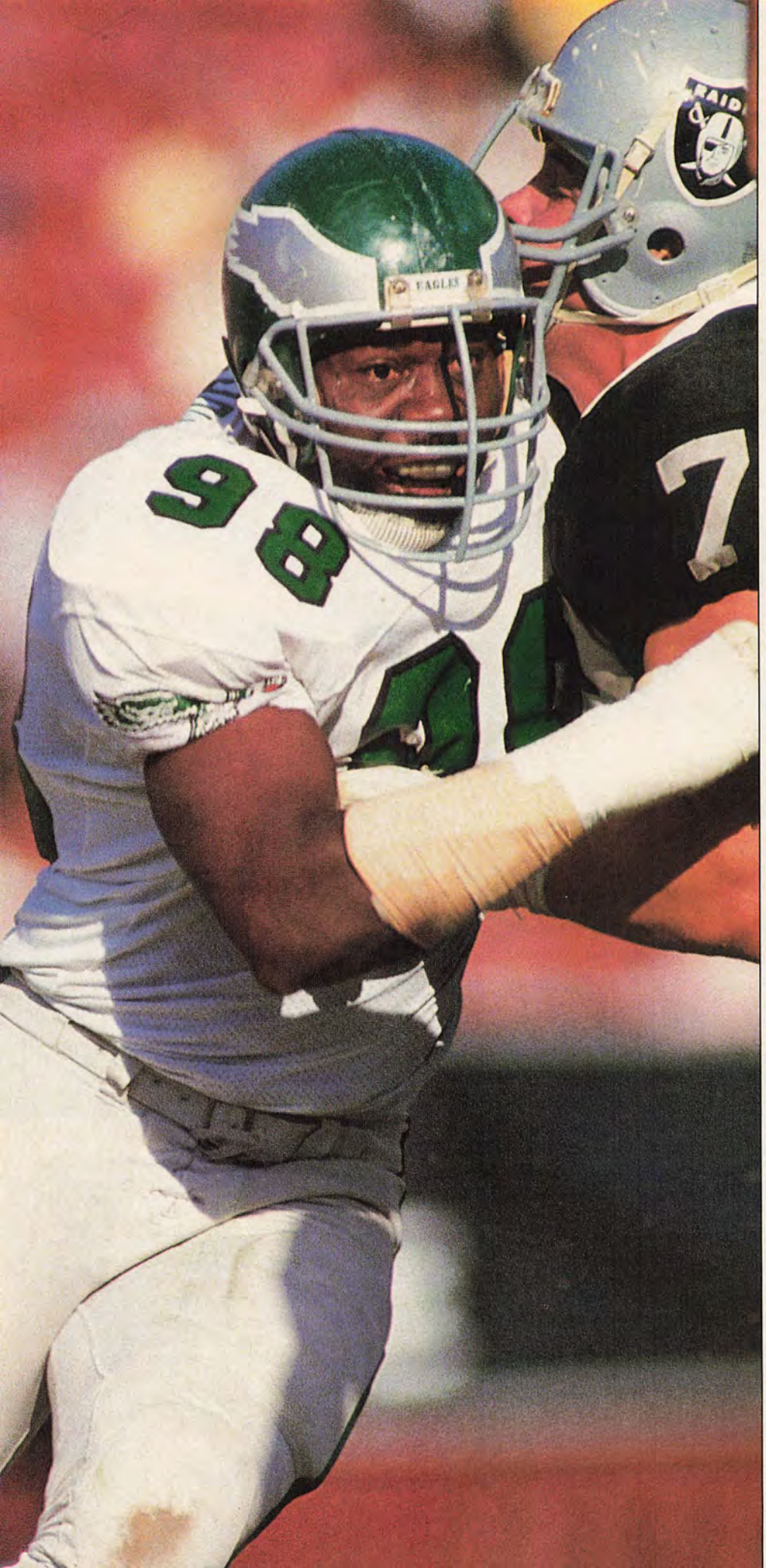
Makes 2 servings.

HONEY OF A GLAZE FOR CHICKEN Heat 1 package (32 oz.) Swanson® Plump & Juicy® Frozen Chicken according to package directions for conventional oven. Meanwhile, in small bowl, mix well ½ cup honey, 3 tablespoons Dijon-style mustard and 1 tablespoon soy sauce. Remove chicken from oven; brush with honey mixture. Heat 5 minutes more. For picnic style: cool chicken 30 minutes. Cover loosely with waxed paper and refrigerate.

Makes 4 servings.

SPICY BUFFALO DIP FOR CHICKEN Heat 1 package (28 oz.) Swanson® Frozen Fried Chicken Nibbles® (wing sections) according to package directions. Meanwhile, in small bowl, mix well 1 cup prepared refrigerated bleu cheese salad dressing and 3 tablespoons Louisiana-style hot sauce. Use as a dip with Chicken Nibbles®.

Makes about 1 cup.



Greg Brown's powerful charge helped him chalk up nine sacks last season.

(Philadelphia continued)

At last, there is a calm in the Philadelphia storm. It was a quiet off-season. The team wasn't sold. It wasn't looking for a new head coach. There were no rumors that the Eagles would be moving to Phoenix.

And at last the Eagles may have found a quarterback for their future. A late-season overtime victory against the Raiders gave credibility to Randall Cunningham, who completed 22 of 39 passes for 298 yards in that game and rushed for another 59.

Early in the season, Cunningham couldn't find his receivers, much less complete passes. But the Eagles were experimenting with several radical offensive formations. Cunningham couldn't handle his duties as the designated third-down quarterback.

"I think this defense could be every bit as good as the one we had in Chicago."

After the 33-27 win over the Raiders, cornerback Lester Hayes said: "He is just unbelievable. He must shower in Vaseline. There's only one Randall Cunningham in the entire NFL. He gives their offense life."

The offensive line will try to give Cunningham new life this season. On the interior front are center Matt Darwin, guards Nick Haden and Ron Baker, and tackles Ken Reeves and Joe Conwell.

Eagles quarterbacks were sacked an NFL record 104 times last season. They were sacked nine times against Seattle and 11 against Detroit.

If not for the receiving skills of Mike Quick, the offense would have been lost most of the season. Catching 60 passes on the NFL's 25th-ranked offense was quite an accomplishment. Halfback Junior Tautalatasi had 41 receptions, tight end John Spagnola 39 and wide receiver Kenny Jackson 30 (with six touchdowns). Anthony Toney starts at fullback.

The defense should be improved. Safety Wes Hopkins, All-Pro in 1985, will return after missing most of the season with a knee injury. Andre Waters has gained a reputation as one of the NFL's most aggressive players. He intercepted six passes, and some thought he was worthy of the Pro Bowl.

The tackles are Ken Clarke and Reggie Singletary. Besides Cobb, Mike Reichenbach and Seth Joyner start at linebacker. Roynell Young and Evan Cooper are the cornerbacks.

"You'll have to see it to believe it," Ryan says, "but I think this defense could be every bit as good as the one we had in Chicago. If you play the 46 right, anything can happen. When you've got players like Reggie White, anything is possible."

END

(Washington continued)

and Curtis Jordan in the defensive backfield.

Remarkably, the Redskins went from a running offense to a passing one with the retirement of Joe Theismann. Gibbs is more comfortable with Jay Schroeder throwing the deep pass than he was with Theismann. Schroeder broke a club record with 4,109 passing yards in '86.

The results were gratifying as ex-USFL receiver Clark caught 74 passes and Monk had 73. With Clark and Monk compiling more than 1000 receiving yards, and running back George Rogers rushing for more than 1000, Washington was the only NFL team with three players to cross the coveted mark.

"We have a team mature enough to challenge for the Super Bowl again."

Running back Kelvin Bryant, also signed from the USFL, might have caught more than 43 passes if not for knee and ankle injuries that cost him six games.

Schroeder now has a 19-6 record as the Washington quarterback, having gone 5-1 after Theismann broke his leg in the second 1985 Giants game.

Little was lost from the running game despite the retirement of John Riggins. Rogers is the perfect back for the offense, having gained 1,203 yards. He led the league with 18 rushing touchdowns and became the Redskins' first non-kicker since 1967 to lead the team in scoring.

The Redskins have big plans for Bryant, a faster runner than Rogers and one who has been projected as an All-Pro halfback.

Amazingly, the Hogs allowed Schroeder to be sacked only 28 times while producing 368 points and 350.1 yards per game. The regulars in 1986 were tackle Mark May, guard R. C. Thielemann, center Jeff Bostic, guard Russ Grimm, tackle Jacoby, guard Raleigh McKenzie and tackle Dan McQuaid.

Tight ends Clint Didier and Don Warren fit the profile of the tight end of the 1980s. Few strong safeties are tall enough to cover Didier, and not many are fast enough to catch him. His 691 yards were the second best for a Washington tight end, and he played the last six games with a cast protecting a fractured finger.

Since the start of the 1982 season, the Redskins' record of 63-21 is the best in the NFL. More importantly, Washington has played in three of the last five NFC title games and two Super Bowls in the 1980s.

"I feel right now that we have a team mature enough to challenge for the Super Bowl again," Gibbs says. "It's not going to be easy with the NFC East getting better every year. But I've been very impressed with the kind of resiliency this team has showed the last few years."

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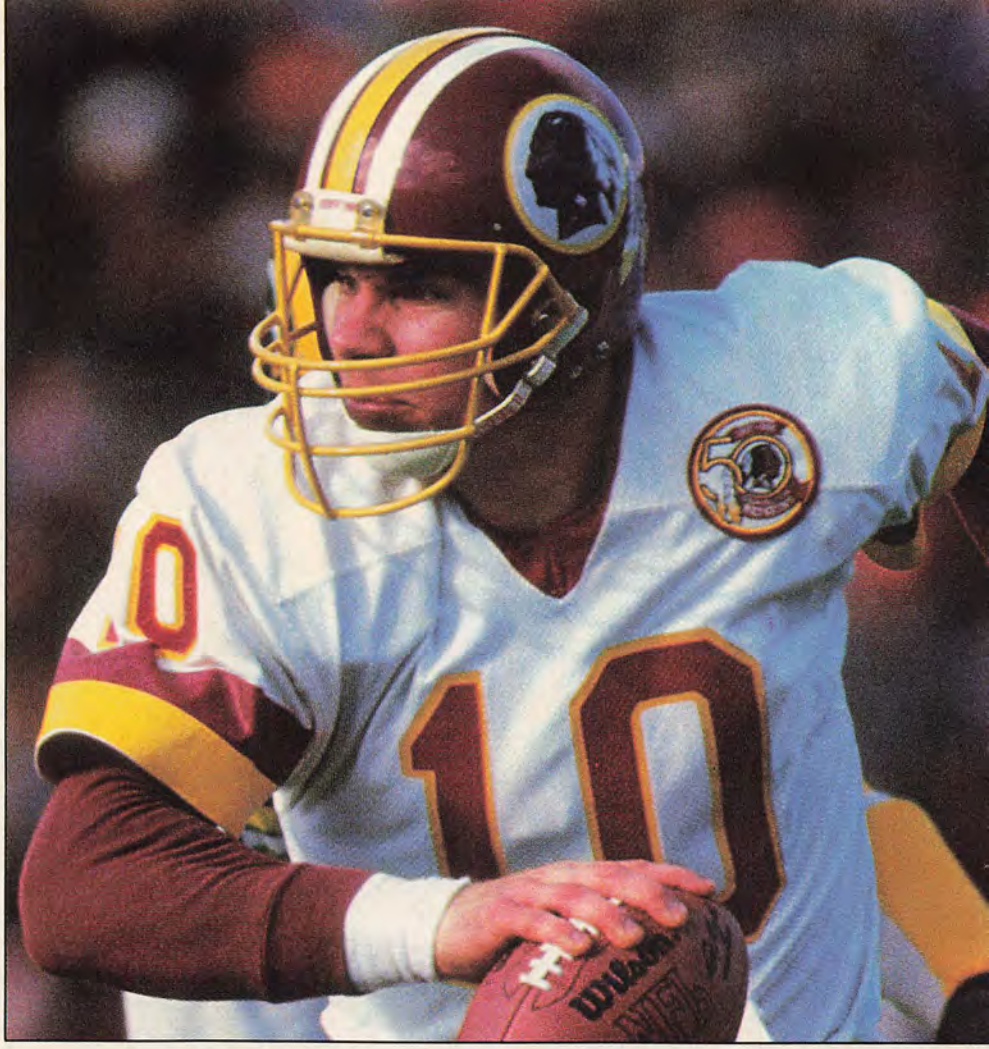

Since Jay Schroeder (above) became the Redskins' quarterback, they're 19–6. Only Lawrence Taylor topped end Dexter Manley (left) in sacks with 20½ to 18½.

Rookie Mike Sherrard of the Cowboys had one of the best yards-per-catch averages (18.1) in the NFL.

(Dallas continued)

Time is now running out on Dorsett, who had arthroscopic surgery on both knees during the off-season. Age is a troubling factor, even if he won't admit it.

Although Landry may have the NFL's most talented backfield in Walker-Dorsett, he also has a dilemma. Landry has said he will use the pro set, or split backfield, more this season. As the Cowboys move away from the I-formation, Dorsett's role will be even more limited. And that could cause another controversy.

Landry is walking a tightrope. Quarterback Danny White, 35, has missed 11 games the last two years with injuries. Steve Pelluer threw more than twice as many passes as White in 1986, averaging one touchdown in 47 throws. A broken wrist cost White almost half of the 1986 season. If the offensive line can't find a way to protect White, Dallas may not have a passing game.

That is why Landry hired New Orleans offensive line coach Jim Erkenbeck. In his only season with New Orleans, the Saints allowed just 27 sacks. They were in an elite group when you consider that only five NFL teams last season averaged over four rushing yards while allowing fewer than 30 sacks.

Furthermore, running back Rueben Mayes was the NFC's third-leading rusher with 1,353 yards and was selected as Rookie of the Year for the NFC.

Erkenbeck plans to emphasize a tougher blocking scheme. The Cowboys had been known for their finesse blocking throughout their 27-year history. But that will change as Erkenbeck teaches more zone blocking.

Another addition during the off-season was special teams coach Mike Solari from the University of Pittsburgh. Solari will also be the assistant line coach behind Erkenbeck.

With the hiring of Solari, Alan Lowry was moved from special teams to wide receivers coach. He'll help Hackett with the passing game. Lowry's wide receivers are Tony Hill (49 catches for 770 yards) and Mike Sherrard (41 for 744). Fullback Timmy Newsome had 48 receptions for 421 yards. Tight end Doug Cosbie's total of 28 catches was his lowest since 1981.

On the interior line the Cowboys start Howard Richards and Phil Pozderac at the tackles, Glen Titensor and Crawford Ker at guards and Tom Rafferty at center.

Landry is turning most of the offense over to Hackett, who already has proven to be one of the NFL's bright offensive minds. Hackett, 40, will complete his two-year contract at the end of 1987 and no doubt will be a candidate for a head-coaching position then.

Predictably, Landry is now concentrating on a defense that has fallen upon hard times.

Remarkably, the Cowboys will be departing from the flex defense that Landry invented in the 1950s when he was with the New York Giants and put into full use in 1964 in Dallas. Landry would like to use the flex about 50 percent of the time while tinkering with the 3-4. Last year, Dallas was one of only five NFL teams to use the 4-3 defense.

But the run-oriented flex finished 23rd against the run among 28 NFL teams last season. The blame could easily be placed on the linebackers, where Eugene Lockhart has yet to bloom in the middle and Mike Hegman had another mediocre year.

Landry's biggest concern is age in the defensive line. Randy White is now 34, and Ed Jones and John Dutton are 36. Dutton and Jones may not be able to hold onto starting jobs. Jones finished the season with only five and a half sacks, his lowest total in nine years. It was a considerable drop-off when you consider he had 13 sacks in 1985, which many considered his best season. With 14 sacks, right end Jim Jeffcoat in his fourth year had more than twice as many as the next Cowboy, White, with six and a half.

Rounding out the defense are right linebacker Jeff Rohrer and Everson Walls, Ron Fellows and Michael Downs in the secondary.

The Cowboys need help in the secondary, where Bill Bates may be too slow to play strong safety. Bates didn't intercept a pass, although he did drop at least three because of a broken finger.

After finishing second in the NFL in interceptions in 1985 (with 33), Dallas intercepted only 17 passes to rank 21st among NFL teams last season. The Cowboys did play a more conservative defense last season, but that is certain to change.

END

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GREEN BAY

Coach Forrest Gregg cleaned house in Green Bay last season; 18 veterans failed to make the 1986 squad. But he didn't sweep out the quarterback. Nor did Gregg improve the defense, which kept its 12th ranking in the league but gave up more points (418 to 355 in 1985) and got fewer sacks (28 to 49).

But there is hope at 1265 Lombardi Avenue for several reasons: a promising draft; the addition of brainy Tom Braatz as the new executive vice president of football operations; the development of a group of young prospects; and the continued rise of cornerback Mark Lee. While the defense struggled most of the year, Lee intercepted nine passes and played consistent run defense. "He should have played in the Pro Bowl," says Gregg.

"He was steady as a rock. . . . He had a tremendous season. He was the one guy, every week, who played well enough to win."

The Packers haven't sent a corner to Honolulu since Willie Buchanon in the late '70s. They were shut out of last year's Pro Bowl, even though Lee has the speed, quickness and instincts to reach that level. A better pass rush would have helped. Rookie linebacker Tim Harris tallied over a quarter of the Packers' sacks with only 7½.

"This is not a game for the negative mind," says Lee, who, with 4.4 speed in the 40, may be the fastest Packer, next to receiver Phillip Epps. "Some people say this is going to be my year. But I just go out and do the best I can with the ability I have. Then everything else will take care of itself. If you get caught up in what other people say, it may not work out as you'd like. You need a positive approach."

It's been easy to think negatively in Green Bay. Randy Wright, a sixth-round pick in 1984, was almost replaced at quarterback by Jim Everett. But the Packers were outwitted by the Los Angeles Rams at the last minute, and Wright kept his job. Six-time Pro Bowl receiver James Lofton was charged with second-degree sexual assault and traded to the Los Angeles Raiders. Another starter, cornerback Mossy Cade, also was charged in a second-degree sexual assault case. Defensive back Tim Lewis jammed his neck in a Monday night game and retired two days later, fearing future paralysis. Lewis was a No. 1 pick in 1983.

Besides the player problems, there was an unfulfilled promise. Gregg took over the offense, promising to run the ball more often. But the Packers rushed 424 times for a 3.8-yard average, 46 fewer times than in 1985, when they ran for twice as many touchdowns (16). The offensive line included two rookie free agents and averaged 2.4 years of experience. "We're a bunch of nobodies," said line coach Jerry Wampfler, accurately summing up his group. Yet the blockers developed. The Packers aren't the pushovers they were a few years ago.

At the end of a rebuilding 4-12 season, members of the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan sports media gave Lee 32 of a possible 44 votes as the club's most valuable defensive player. "He was steady as a rock," says Gregg. "He had a tremendous season. He was the one guy, every week, who played well enough to win."

Lee was the Packers' second-round pick in 1980 but hobbled through most of training camp with a pulled hamstring suffered in a sprint workout. When he regained quickness and mobility, he was used as a nickel back on sure passing downs. He quickly learned the difficulty of defensing elusive pro receivers with their gliding moves.

In a 1980 midseason game against Cleveland, the Packers held a 21-19 lead in the final minute, and Lee was on the field as a rookie fifth back in a third-and-20 situation. The Packers elected to blitz, leaving Lee in man-to-man coverage. Lee's man was 6-4 Dave Logan. Brian Sipe, aiming for Logan, underthrew, but Lee overran his coverage at the same time. Logan veered back towards the ball, made the catch and scored the winning touchdown. It left Lee emotionally whipped.

"It's a lonely island out there," Lee said afterwards. "I thought I played it well and was thinking about an interception. But I didn't realize the ball was underthrown. It was very discouraging."

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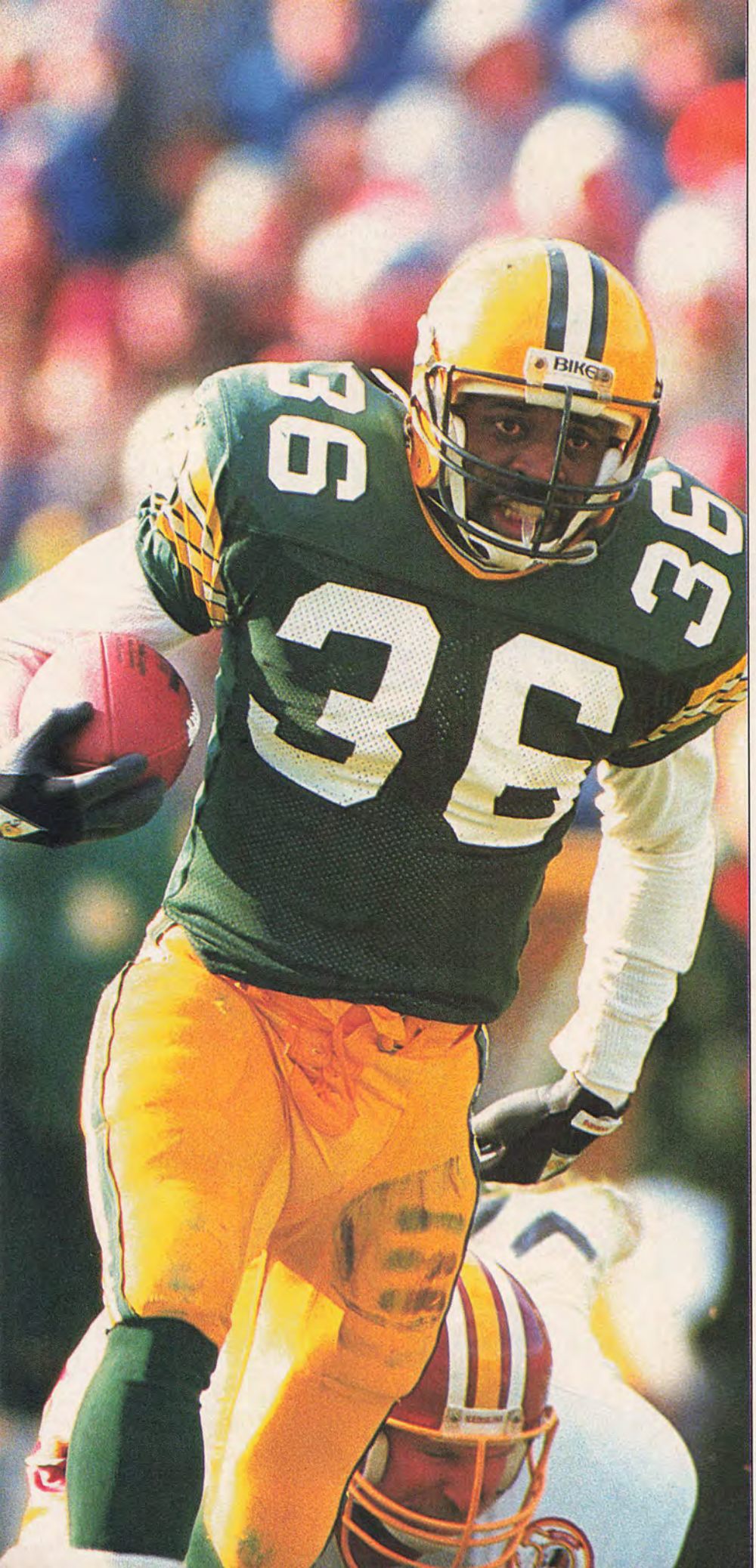
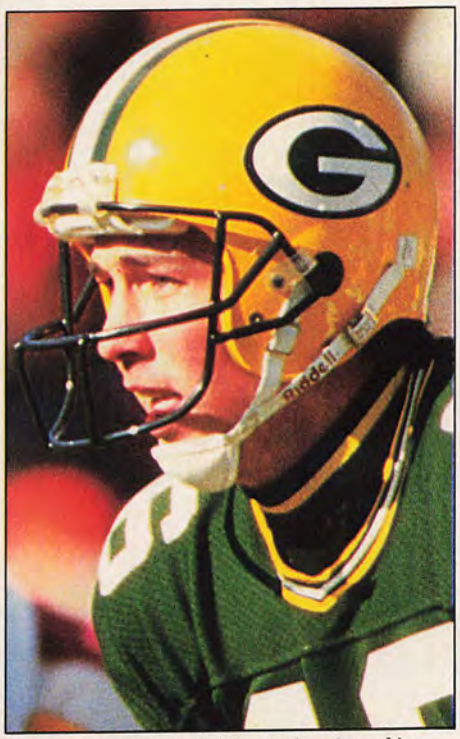
Thinking interception paid off for Packers cornerback Mark Lee with a tie for second most in the NFL.





Kenneth Davis (left) led the Packers in rushing; Randy Wright (above) threw for 3,247 yards.

(Green Bay continued)

Lee has long since shaken off the mental anguish of Logan's catch. But some wondered if Lee was injury-prone. "I'm pretty good about shaking things off," he says. "I knew what everybody was thinking: 'Here's a No. 2 pick. Can he play or what? All we've seen is him sitting in a whirlpool.' My second year, I started feeling comfortable with the other players. And I started going for the ball more."

It was Lofton who encouraged Lee to "stop batting them down and start catching them." Whether Lofton was joking or not, Lee took the advice and intercepted six passes his second year. His seven-year total is 24. But the biggest change in Lee's career came three years ago, when he made a renewed dedication to the game.

"I tried to be more disciplined in my private life and on the field," says Lee. "You take a lot of your ability away by staying up late. You've got to have your rest to build up your energy."

It helped that the Packers had hired former Cincinnati cornerback Ken Riley, now head coach at Florida A&M, as their secondary coach. "Ken was a leader over in Cincinnati and that carried over here," says Lee. "You could talk to him as a player about the little things he learned as a player. He knew the tendencies of certain receivers because he played against them for a number of years. He knew when certain guys were going to go deep in a certain situation, or when they were going to run a hitch. The corner is a hot box for a defensive back. One thing Ken impressed on us was that if you know and study a receiver during the week, you can challenge him more in a game."

But when is Green Bay going to challenge

(continued on page 88)

MOLSON MAKES IT GOLDEN

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TAMPA BAY

One thing you can say about the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' defense last year is that it was consistent—consistently bad. The Bucs finished 28th in points allowed (473), 28th in first downs allowed (362), 28th in sacks (19), 25th in interceptions (13), 24th in passing yards allowed (3,685) and 28th in rushing yards allowed (2,648).

Over the longest season some of the defensive starters will ever play, there was a consistency, too, about the tenacious style of left inside linebacker Jeff Davis. For the third straight season, Davis eluded enough blockers and filled enough holes to lead the Bucs in tackles with 136. He led in 1985 with 132 and 1984 with 165, fourth-highest total in club history, and finished second to Hugh Green in '83 with 137, despite missing two games.

With the arrival of Coach Ray Perkins, trying to rebuild a 2-14 team into a winner, the loafers will soon be gone and the hustlers, like Davis, will stick around.

"It's due to several things, a knack for being around the ball being one," says Davis, one of the best fifth-round draft picks ever made by Tampa Bay. "Determination is another, and the fact that I've always had to work hard. There were a lot of times when I felt I had fallen behind another linebacker. This made me work harder and try always to do my best."

The same can't be said for some of the other Bucs. But with the arrival of Coach Ray Perkins, trying to rebuild a 2-14 team into a winner, the loafers will soon be gone and the hustlers, like Davis, will stick around. Davis, after a one-on-one meeting with Perkins, likes the man and his style.

"He definitely wants a first-class organization," says Davis. "He's hard-nosed and he's tough. But the thing I like the most is that he's straightforward. If he tells you something, you can put it in the bank, and that's good. The guy's in control."

Davis senses a new attitude and determination around the locker room since Perkins came aboard. "I think anytime there's a new guy in town, there's a change in attitude," Davis says. "And when he is determined to change things and develop discipline, determined to be the best, then the attitude of the team changes."

Davis was drafted in 1982 after a great career at Clemson that included a national championship his senior year. Davis' 469 tackles are second on the Clemson career list. He made 10 or more hits in each of his final 21 games at Clemson. In 35 career starts, he averaged over 13 tackles.

And then he was introduced to the pro game at Tampa Bay and those silent Sunday afternoon dressing rooms. The fun was gone. In his five seasons with the Bucs, Davis has left the field a winner only 17 times. And there were those losing streaks: seven straight in 1986, nine straight in 1985 and nine straight in 1983.

"It was discouraging," says Davis. "I prefer to win and make less tackles. Trying hard doesn't seem to be enough."

Davis, who runs a 4.7 40-yard dash and can probably lift pianos, has never gotten the proper recognition, except maybe from some defensive coach huddled near a film projector. "It's going to take a winning schedule, a winning year, for us to get any recognition," Davis says. "It's hard to boast about anything good when you're 2-14. I love this game. I know that I've always tried to do my best. It's helped that I've tried to keep my sense of humor, too."

According to Davis, the Leeman Bennett-coached Buc teams of 1985-86 lacked the proper discipline and attitude. "But a lot of things go into winning a football game," he says. "A lot of things go into coaching. You can't blame only the coaches, the organization or the players. All of us had a hand in it. We just weren't on the same page."

But Davis hinted that there was head-nodding, if not actual accusations in the Bucs' dressing room. "There are so many little things," he says. "Not that you're actually finger-pointing, but everyone was saying, 'Hey, I did my best,' and brush it off on somebody else. We've got to look at ourselves and look at things together—

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Chances are Bucs linebacker Jeff Davis has made the most tackles in the NFL in the last three seasons.

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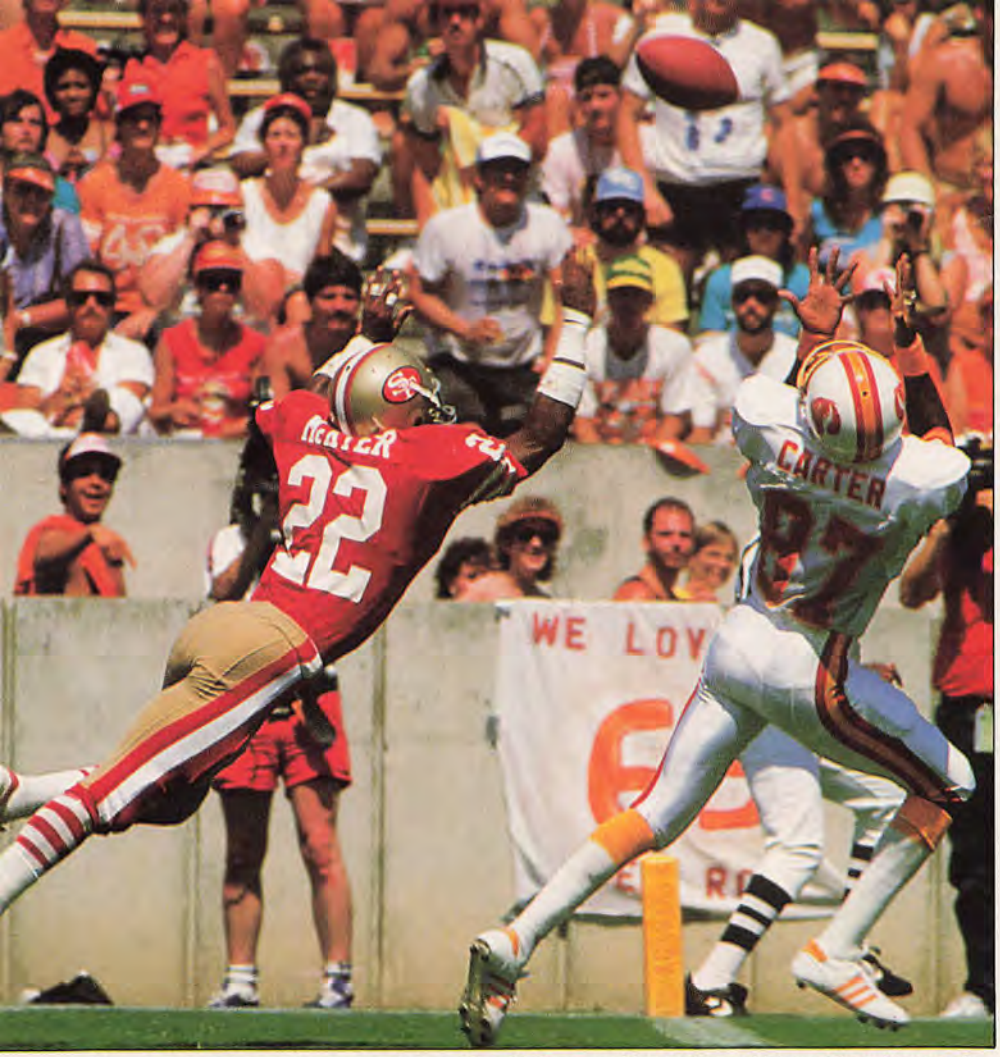
19



Bucs fans look forward to many of these (Gerald Carter making a TD catch) from Vinny Testaverde.

(Tampa Bay continued)

management, the coaches, the players. We've all got to come together. It's important to have a head coach who can bring us together."

Perkins has gotten Tampa Bay off to a running start. Davis says between 30 and 50 players worked out in the off-season even as Perkins was having the weight room expanded. "It was like night and day," says Davis. "Football is definitely a year-round game, not just a six-month game. We have had very few guys who lived in town. They'd leave Tampa after the season and go home. That's one of the things Coach Perkins has done. He wants you to be here. The players know this guy's not kidding."

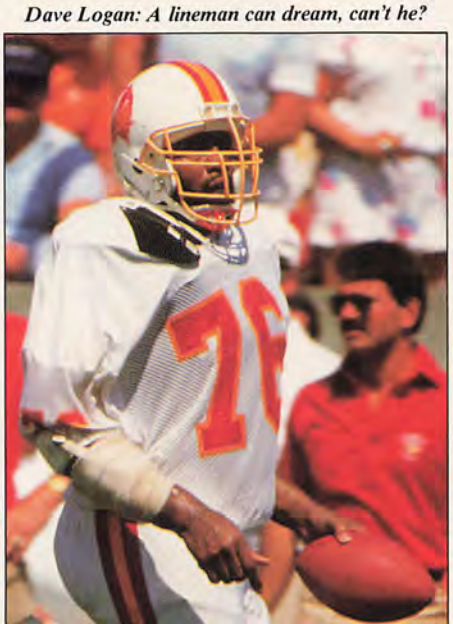
Perkins made an almost immediate impact on the Bucs. He acquired a record 20 draft picks. Heisman Trophy winner Vinny Testaverde was, of course, the No. 1 pick. He signed a six-year, $8.2 million contract. The Bucs also drafted cornerback Ricky Reynolds and linebacker Winston Moss as possible starters.

"Anytime you have that many selections, you are expecting more than average help from that draft," says Perkins. "I anticipate a larger number of rookies will make our team."

Of Testaverde, Perkins says: "It's been 15 years since I've seen a young quarterback with the quality and tenaciousness he brings to the position. He should be a great quarterback, and I don't use the word great too many times."

"I was willing to pay him (Testaverde) more to have him report early," says Owner Hugh Culverhouse. "To me, having a quarterback here three months before the season, where he can get almost one-on-one attention from the coaches, is worth half a season. If our youngsters play good games and improve, that's all I ask for. You have to have patience and believe you're on the right track."

Dave Logan: A lineman can dream, can't he?



"We have a big job ahead of us, and we are going to work on it," says Perkins. "I don't believe in timetables. We want to make the Buccaneers a winning team as quickly as possible. But I am a realist. I know it will take time."

Testaverde's arm eventually will give the Bucs an outstanding passing attack. Before that happens, they must add at least two talented wide receivers and develop a defense that will give Testaverde's unit decent field position. The defense, which had big problems stopping the run, will probably be shuffled and reshuffled right up to the opening kickoff, and perhaps beyond.

Davis and Scot Brantley have been the starting inside linebackers for the past four seasons. Ervin Randle, a third-round pick two years ago, is expected to replace Brantley. Either Jackie Walker or Kevin Murphy, both second-rounders last year, could oust outside starter Chris Washington. The other outside backer, Keith Browner, was swapped to San Francisco. Browner led the Bucs with four sacks last year.

The secondary needs speed and leadership. Cornerback Rod Jones and strong safety Craig Swoope started as rookies and are promising. Vito McKeever, a free agent from the USFL, had three interceptions and 12 passes defensed as an eight-game starter at left corner. Another rookie, Kevin Walker, showed flashes of defensive skill late in the year. The young secondary also includes second-round draft pick Reynolds, who has 4.6 speed but the instincts and temperament to play the corner.

Upfront, the rush line produced only nine and a half sacks. The line hasn't been the same since Lee Roy Selmon retired. Perkins wants more strength and quickness from this unit, which seems wide open to challengers. End Ron Holmes has been an in-and-out player. Nose tackle Dave Logan is in his ninth year (103 straight starts) and has been the Bucs' best down lineman since Selmon started having back problems a few years ago.

Journeyman Kevin Kellin and 6-7 Tyrone Keys, a former Chicago Bear, will get a shot at pass-rushing duty. Nose tackle Bob Nelson and end John Cannon, out half the season with a stress fracture, will also be in the hunt. What Perkins needs is a tough run-defender at left end and at least two specialists to get a hand on the quarterback. Until the Bucs get enough quick, agile linemen who can penetrate, their 3-4 defense isn't going to stop anybody.

With Steve Young, a 14-game starter, traded to San Francisco for extra draft picks (No. 2, linebacker Moss; No. 4, wide receiver Bruce Hill), Perkins is expected to start Steve DeBerg early and let Testaverde learn pro defenses before sending him into the huddle. DeBerg is a clever tactician with an accurate arm but not much speed or mobility. He started the first two games last year, 31-7 and 23-10 losses to San Francisco and Minnesota. Young started

(continued on page 145)

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SAN FRANCISCO

This was the real Jerry Rice, racing toward the first touchdown in a playoff game against the Giants, clearing the secondary with a quick slant pattern and pulling away from the safeties.

Then, something happened to Jerry Rice that would be linked to his past. Reaching the Giants' 27-yard line, he dropped the ball. It started rolling toward the end zone. Rice kicked and then tried to scoop up the slippery object at the 5, only to push it into the end zone where it was recovered for a touchback by New York safety Kenny Hill.

Catching 86 passes for 1,570 yards and 15 touchdowns, Rice enjoyed the kind of season that a Hall of Famer would recall with pride.

This was a heartbreaking ending to an otherwise brilliant season for Rice, who not only led the NFC in receptions and yardage but also left the impression that he will do so for several years.

What happened to Rice in the divisional playoff game against the Giants could also leave a lasting impression. He thought the butterfinger stigma, which had followed him through most of his 1985 rookie season, was behind him. Catching 86 passes for 1,570 yards and 15 touchdowns, Rice enjoyed the kind of season that a Hall of Famer would recall with pride.

"I still don't know why I dropped it," Rice says of the fumble. "It was one of those situations that you'd love to do over again."

Rice, maturing as an NFL wide receiver, probably should regard it as just another growing pain. Perhaps he had come too far too fast and had assumed too much responsibility for the San Francisco offense.

No one, not even 49ers Coach Bill Walsh, had expected such a season from Rice. Walsh had been more than satisfied with the swift wide receiver's 49-reception 1985 season when he was NFC Rookie of the Year.

"It took a guy like Dwight Clark three years before he was an established pro," Walsh says. "Jerry is basically on the same timetable."

When Rice was charged with six dropped passes during his rookie season, teammates started calling him Butterfingers to his face. There were questions about the All-America wide receiver from Mississippi Valley State. The Dallas Cowboys, who tried desperately to draft wide receiver Eddie Brown in the '85 first round, said they wouldn't have taken Rice, even if he had been available.

Rice was the third wide receiver selected in the 16th position after Al Toon by the New York Jets and Brown by Cincinnati. Toon was the 10th choice in the draft, Brown the 13th and Rice the 16th. Skeptics said Rice's amazing collegiate statistics had inflated his value. He caught more than 100 passes in each of his last two seasons, but the Mississippi Valley State offense was strictly a pass-dominated concoction.

Unlike Toon and Brown, Rice appeared to lack polish. There were fumbles and unproductive games.

"Some of the criticism I deserved," he says. "It was a shock to me that I was fumbling and dropping so many balls, because I had never done that before. I never really got down on myself. It's not the mark of a true receiver to get down on himself. So I didn't. But I might have wondered why things weren't going right."

Rice turned it on late in the 1985 season, raising expectations again. He caught 25 passes in the last four games, including 10 catches for a team-record 241 yards in a 27-20 loss to the Los Angeles Rams.

When training camp started last summer, Rice was running crisp routes again, turning defensive backs around or simply snatching passes from their hands. He was so impressive that Clark said, "There's Jerry Rice and everybody else—and that includes me. I said the first day Jerry showed up for practice that he'd be the greatest receiver in the history of the club."

Clark's statements carry special clout when you consider he's the 49ers' leading

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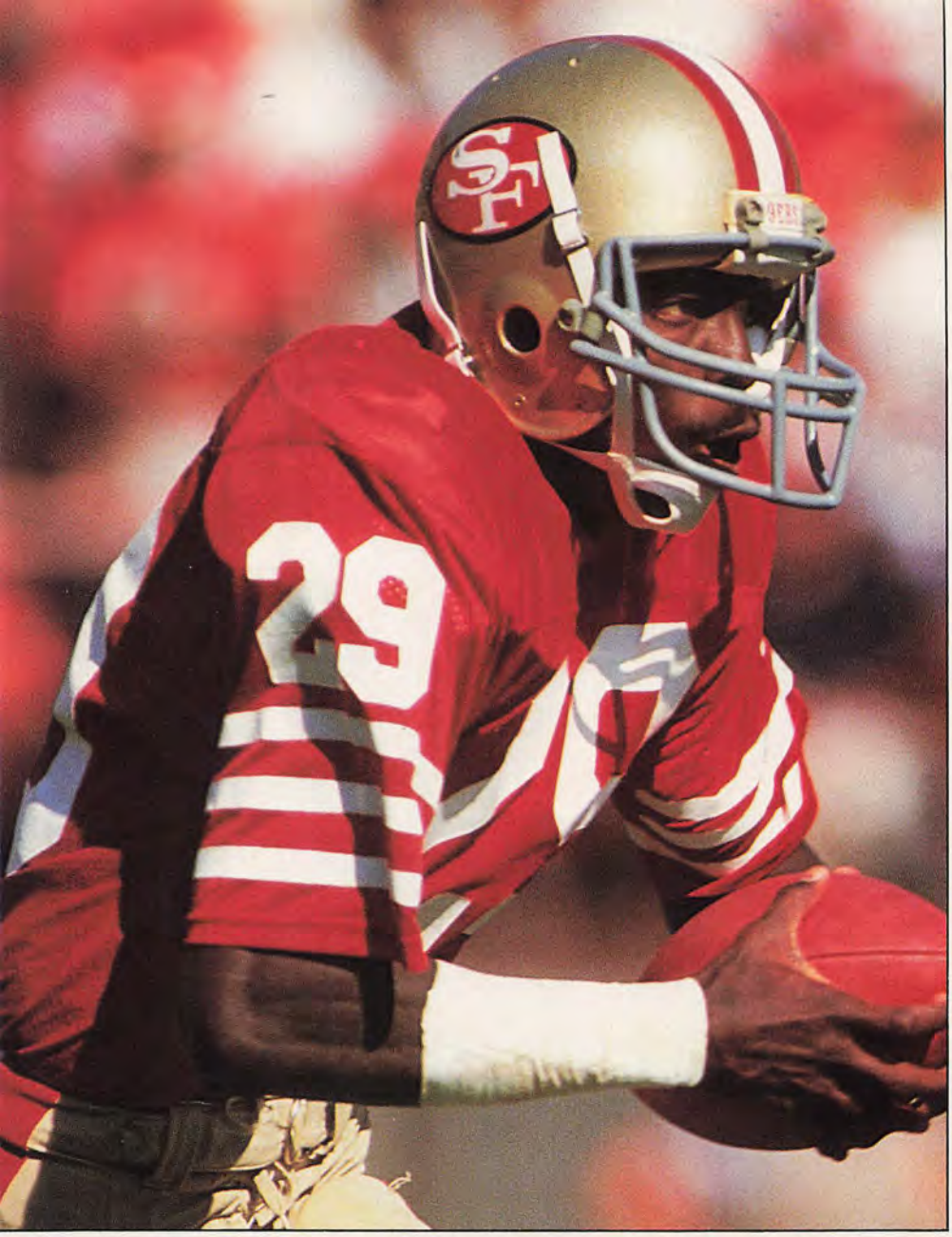
Jerry Rice stepped out far ahead of other NFL receivers with 1,570 yards and 15 touchdowns in his second year.



Don Griffin looks forward to the kind of year that made him NFC Defensive Rookie of the Year.

(San Francisco continued)

all-time receiver, has played in two Pro Bowls and made "The Catch" to beat Dallas in the 1981 NFC championship game.

Ex-wide receiver Freddie Solomon, the man who lost his starting job to Rice and then retired at the end of the '85 season, still believes Clark is the finest wide receiver in 49ers history. But Solomon also knows that Rice's day is coming.

"Jerry can potentially be not only the 49ers' greatest receiver but one of the best in the NFL and potentially one of the greats of all time," Solomon says. "However, there are several things he must overcome. He has to stay healthy and put in some years, work at his game and get the ball thrown enough to him to make the big plays."

Some say Rice might have finished with more receiving yards in 1986 if Jeff Kemp had remained the starting quarterback. Joe Montana missed games two through nine with a back injury, returning in time to lead San Francisco to the playoffs.

Although Montana is a better all-around quarterback than Kemp, the latter was able to get the ball deep to Rice more frequently.

Still, Rice's most productive day was in mid-November with Montana at quarterback. The 6-2, 200-pound receiver caught 12 passes for 204 yards against Washington. Somehow, though, the 49ers lost that game 14-6.

Rice's longest reception was 66 yards from Kemp in the September game against the Rams. His biggest scoring day also came with Kemp at quarterback when he caught three touchdown passes against Indianapolis.

"It was one of the great seasons that a wide receiver could have," says ex-49ers receiver Gene Washington, now a sports commentator in Los Angeles. "Jerry is a talent that could play in any system. He has speed and body control. He's going to play for a very long time."

What's next for Rice? Can he become the first wide receiver to catch 100 passes since Washington's Art Monk with 106 in 1984?

"I think that I'm just getting warmed up," Rice says. "Getting to play so much my rookie year really helped. Granted, I made mistakes, dropped some balls. But it got me ready for the NFL. My talents started showing up last season. So there's a lot to look forward to."

Montana will turn 31 before the season begins. Some say he has lost his quickness. Surgery last September to replace a ruptured disk certainly raised questions about his future.

After missing eight games, Montana returned to lead San Francisco to its fourth straight playoff appearance. In his first game back, against St. Louis, he threw touchdown passes of 40, 44 and 45 yards to Rice.

Dr. Arthur White, who performed the surgery, said it was "crazy" for Montana to return so quickly. But he didn't reinjure the back, even though he did suffer a mild concussion in the playoff loss to the Giants.

There are two ways of looking at Montana's future. Even though he's slowing down, he's always had the resourcefulness and resiliency to overcome adversity. His ability to avoid a sack and make the big play has been almost magical.

But without quickness, he won't be the old Montana. He isn't suited to become the classic dropback passer like San Diego quarterback Dan Fouts. Therefore, his seasons may be numbered.

Evidently as insurance, the 49ers obtained quarterback Steve Young from Tampa Bay four days before the draft. They traded their second and fourth choices in the 1987 draft and cash for Young, who signed a six-year contract worth $5 million with the Bucs in 1985.

"What Joe Montana did last season was just astounding when you consider that at least one doctor said he might never play again," Walsh says. "You've got to believe in Joe Montana. There are so many ways that he can beat you."

Montana is still surrounded by offensive talent that could lead the 49ers to their third Super Bowl in the 1980s.

Fullback Roger Craig is one of the league's best running-receiving threats. His production dropped off slightly last year following a season when he surpassed 1000 yards both rushing and receiving. But he had to share the football with newly acquired halfback Joe Cribbs.

The offensive line that led San Francisco to a 38-16 victory over Miami in Super Bowl XIX remains intact. From left to right, the starting five are Bubba Paris, John Ayers, Fred Quillan, Randy Cross and Keith Fahnhorst. Tight end Russ Francis will return for his 12th season after catching 41 passes for 505 yards in 1986.

Changes were made in the defensive coaching staff and special teams during the

(continued on page 155)

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RAMS

The team photograph on the wall of the Sealy grocery store pictures kids of many shapes and sizes—tall ones, fat ones, short ones. But one player stands out. In the winter of 1979, Eric Dickerson looked like a man among children in the state championship photo of the Sealy Tigers.

Sealy is a pit stop on a busy South Texas freeway near Houston, a place few people knew about until Dickerson starting rolling up big numbers. On the day Dickerson signed his letter of intent with SMU, then-coach Ron Meyer said, "Nobody really knows what Eric's potential is. It could be unlimited."

When Dickerson completed his college career in 1982, some thought he could have done better. Sharing the rushing load at SMU with Craig James, now of the New England Patriots, may have cost Dickerson the Heisman Trophy.

"Eric Dickerson is still a great runner," Rams Coach John Robinson said at the end of last season. "And he has so much more to look forward to."

Today, people still wonder how good Dickerson will be, even though he's already rushed for 6,968 yards in four years as a pro and holds the NFL single-season record with 2,105 yards.

Dickerson is one of the NFL's most dynamic runners, but questions still follow him. Would he be as good if the Rams weren't a run-oriented team? And isn't Dickerson's straight-up running style going to send him into early retirement?

Dickerson may, indeed, be the best pure runner in today's game. His 1,821 yards in 1986 are a testament to that. But he also lost three fumbles in the NFC wild card game against Washington, reminding detractors of the fumble he lost the previous year in the NFC title game against Chicago.

"Eric Dickerson is still a great runner," Rams Coach John Robinson said at the end of last season. "And he has so much more to look forward to. I have no worries about Eric. Why should I?"

To have rushed for more than 1,800 yards in three of his four NFL seasons should have made Dickerson the toast of the West Coast. But he drew a fair share of criticism in the 1985 season when he gained 1,234 yards and let the Rams down in the title game.

"Yeah, 1985 was a rotten year," Dickerson says with more than a hint of sarcasm. "Twelve hundred yards. Fourteen touchdowns. And the team didn't have a very good year either, did we?"

Dickerson did miss two games in 1985, thanks to a contract dispute. Many attributed his "problems" that season to missing all of training camp, along with the first two games.

"When I came back, I wasn't in football shape," Dickerson says. "You can run and lift weights and keep your body toned, but that still doesn't mean you're in football shape. You have to go out there and take the pounding and get used to being knocked around."

It was easy to forget Dickerson's sub-1,800-yard season in 1985. By September of '86 he was back in form, rumbling through the NFL. For a while, it appeared he would break his own single-season rushing record. By the halfway mark, he was 105 yards ahead of his 1984 pace.

When Dickerson gained 111 yards and the Rams defeated Chicago 20-17 on *Monday Night Football*, Robinson said Dickerson had vindicated himself for his performance in the NFC title game. Robinson was trying to answer critics who said Dickerson wasn't capable of winning a big game.

For all of his value as a runner, Dickerson still hasn't led the Rams to a Super Bowl—something that Tony Dorsett has done twice in Dallas and Walter Payton accomplished two years ago in Chicago. Consider that Denver reached the Super Bowl last season with almost no running game, and you can understand the frustration in Los Angeles.

Only two NFL teams—the Rams and 49ers—have reached the playoffs each of the last four seasons. So Dickerson must accept at least part of the blame for the

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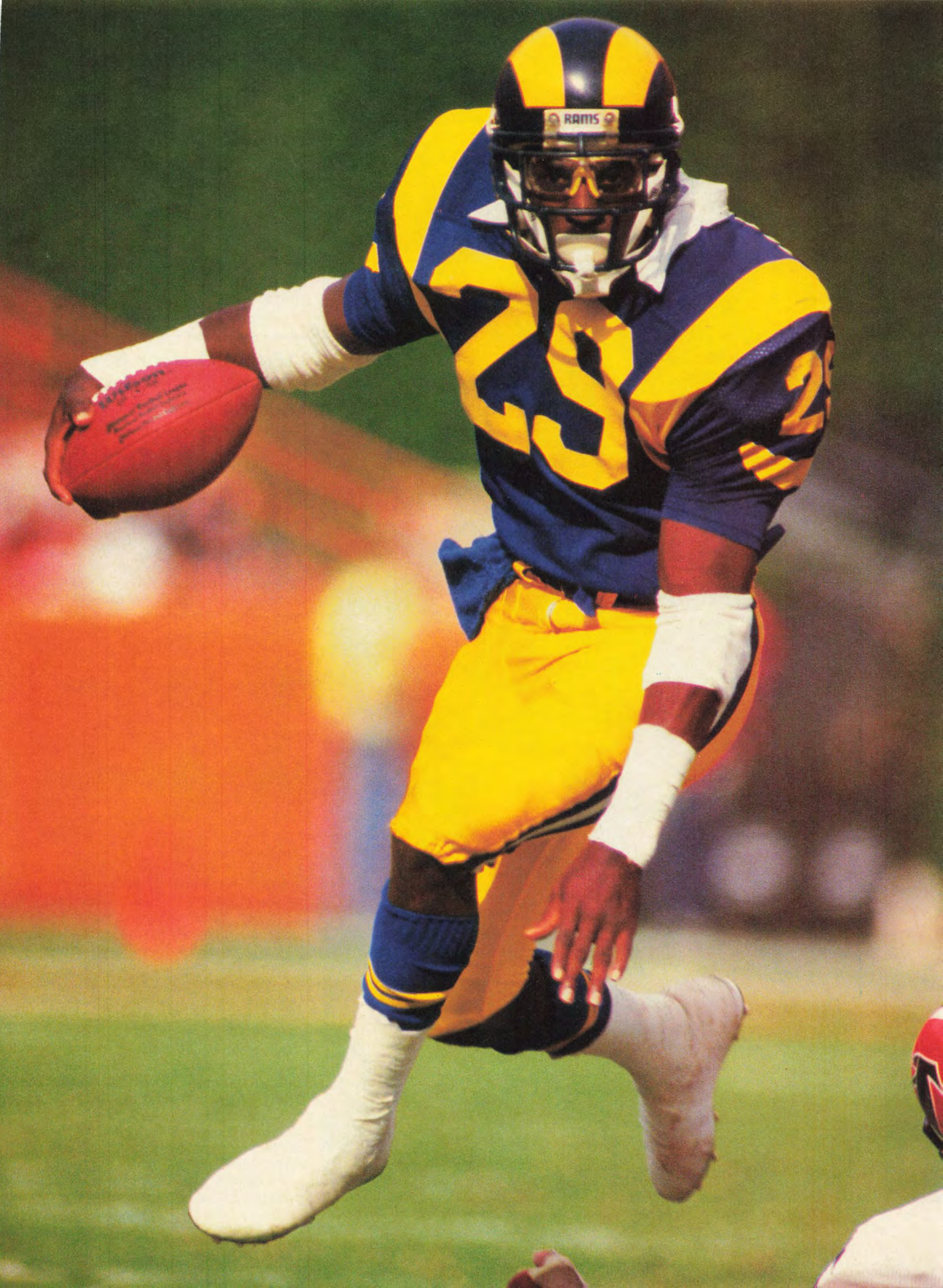
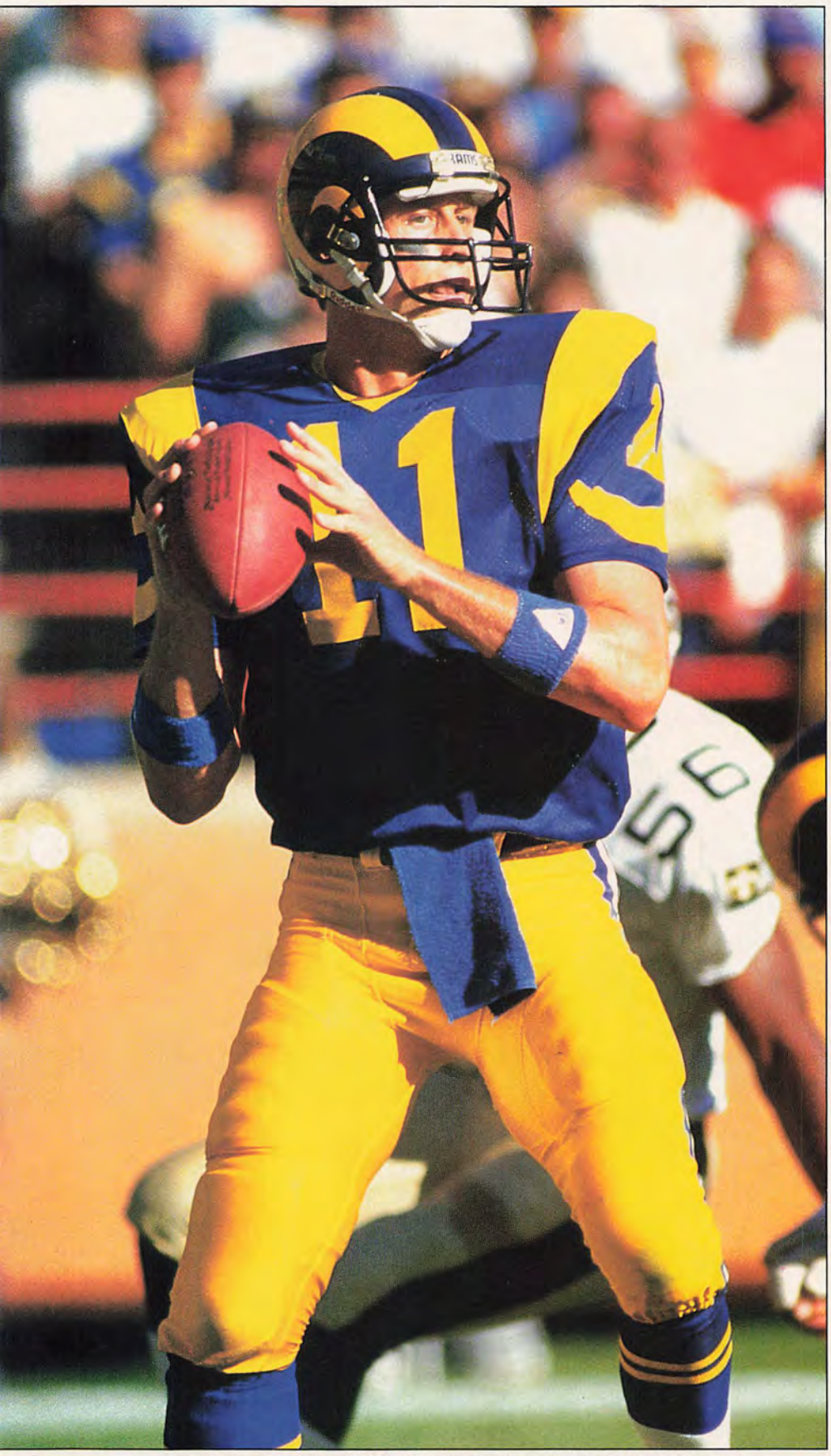
Swinging into action with 6,968 rushing yards in four years, Eric Dickerson is well ahead of Walter Payton's career record pace.


RAMS



The Rams' passing should be better with Jim Everett's fingers on the trigger.

(Los Angeles Rams continued)

Rams' disappointments in the really big games.

"Eric Dickerson has won the big game for us, and he's going to win more big games," Robinson says. "There's just no question about it."

The standard for a great NFL running back used to be 1000 yards per season. Since 1978, when the season was expanded from 14 to 16 games, that standard has been closer to 1,200 yards. But with Dickerson, the standard should be 1,500 yards, considering that he has averaged 366 attempts per season, about 25 more than the NFL's other leading runners.

"Eric Dickerson has won the big game for us, and he's going to win more."

In 1986 Dickerson averaged 4.5 yards per carry, which was less than Cincinnati's James Brooks (5.3), New Orleans' Rueben Mayes (4.7), Seattle's Curt Warner (4.6) and St. Louis' Stump Mitchell (4.6).

Dickerson led all running backs in fumbles, losing a total of 14, and has yet to develop his receiving skills. He caught only 26 passes for 205 yards last season. Dickerson is still leery about turning his back on a defender when catching the ball. A heavy collision with Rams safety Nolan Cromwell during a practice session three years ago left Dickerson with temporary numbness in his arms and legs. He obviously hasn't forgotten the experience.

Dickerson blames his mediocre receiving skills on recent Rams quarterbacks. And he might have a point when you consider that he's played with Vince Ferragamo, Jeff Kemp, Dieter Brock, Steve Bartkowski and Steve Dils.

But passing should start to improve now that Jim Everett has taken over. Everett started the last five games last season, giving rise to hope that the Rams will finally have an NFL-caliber passing attack.

"It makes a big difference, having one quarterback all of the time," Dickerson says. "You get used to catching a quarterback's passes and taking his handoffs, and then he gets replaced. I'm looking forward to the day when we can finally settle on one. Maybe we have. I know that everybody is pulling for Jim."

Dickerson seems destined to own the NFL career rushing record someday. Before Payton retires, he will probably leave the record near 20,000 yards. At his current pace, Dickerson should reach 20,000 in 12 full seasons—if he can stay healthy. Dickerson so far has been capable of avoiding the big collisions. He was even criticized for running out of bounds too frequently during his rookie year.

Despite being a big (6-3, 218), upright runner, Dickerson still has a quick step when it comes to avoiding tacklers.

"I remember watching him play a college game on TV," Dallas Coach Tom Landry says.

(continued on page 180)

MITSUBISHI

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Walsh Finds Mother Lode: Niners Mine Super Gold

by Daryl Sanders

You've got to wonder if Bill Walsh has found the mother lode. The coach of the San Francisco 49ers has mined Super Bowl gold twice already in this decade and is set to stake a solid claim again this season.

Prospects for striking pay dirt are high.

San Francisco has greater overall balance than any team in the National Football League, and that includes the New York Giants and Chicago Bears, the past two champions.

Despite losing to the Giants in the 1986 playoffs, the Niners excelled in almost every offensive and defensive category.

They were third in the NFL in total offense; 10th in rushing offense; second in passing offense; and seventh in scoring offense. They were sixth in total defense; third in rushing defense; 17th in passing defense; and third in scoring defense.

Had Joe Montana not missed eight games with a broken back, the 49ers' statistical dominance would have been even greater. In short, Walsh's Niners are loded (sic).

Walsh didn't like the breakdowns in the offensive line that led to Montana's early-season back injury and the concussion-causing blow delivered by Giants nose tackle Jim Burt that literally knocked his quarterback out of the playoffs in the second quarter against New York. With three picks in the first two rounds of the draft, Walsh used two of them to add beef to the upfront protection, selecting 283-pound tackle Harris Barton and 281-pound guard Jeff Bregel.

San Francisco's running game is solid with Roger Craig set to return to the form which saw him gain more than 1000 yards both rushing and receiving in 1985, and with Joe Cribbs now familiar with Walsh's offense.

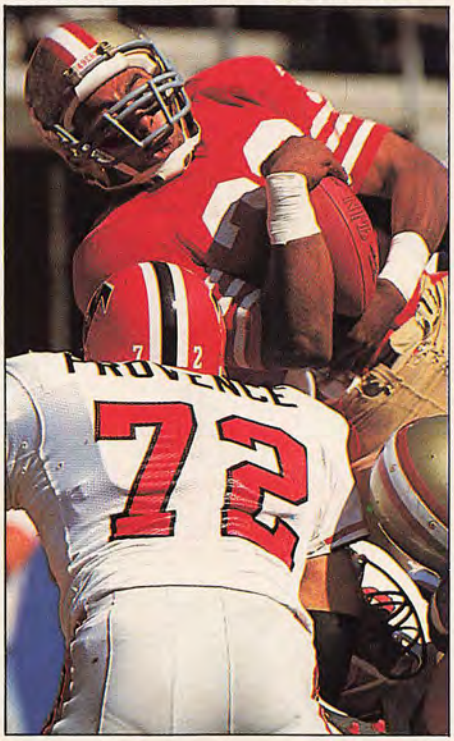
Montana has excellent receiving targets. Wide receiver Dwight Clark and tight end Russ Francis are experienced veterans. Third-year wide-out Jerry Rice led the league in receiving yardage in '86 with 1,570 and scored 16 touchdowns.

Defensively, the 49ers had a league-leading 39 interceptions. All-Pro safety Ronnie Lott ranked first in pass thefts individually with 10.

San Francisco will have to defeat Cleveland to earn its third Super Bowl crown.

The Browns have that lean and hungry look after yielding to fourth-quarter heroics by Denver quarterback John Elway and narrowly missing a trip to Pasadena for Super Bowl XXI.

San Francisco's destiny: Super Bowl Gold



The last three Super Bowls have been won by teams that barely missed the year before. Three years ago, the 49ers won after being eliminated in the 1983 NFC title game by Washington. Two years ago, the Bears won after losing to the Niners in the '84 NFC championship match. The Giants won last year after being beaten in the playoffs two consecutive years by the eventual league champion.

Two years ago, when quarterback Bernie Kosar was a mere babe in professional pads, Cleveland relied almost exclusively on the run. In fact, fullback Earnest Byner and halfback Kevin Mack both rushed for more than 1000 yards that season as the Browns won their division.

Last year, Byner and Mack suffered nagging injuries and were rarely in the backfield at the same time. Kosar responded to the challenge. He threw for 3,854 yards and 17 touchdowns, and only 10 interceptions.

This season, watch out. With Kosar, Byner and Mack all in the backfield, the Browns' offense should be more potent than last year when it ranked fifth in scoring offense.

Defensively, the Browns slipped in '86. They were tagged for 41, 20, 30, 21 and 24 points in the first five games. In the final four regular season games, when the division title and playoff spot were on the line, the defenders allowed only 10, 17, 3 and 17 points in going 4-0 and raising their record from 8-4 to 12-4. Pro Bowlers Bob Golic (nose tackle) and Hanford Dixon (cornerback), and Chris Rockins (135 tackles) head the defensive unit. To reach their showdown in Super Bowl XXII, both the 49ers and the Browns must get past recent Super Bowl teams.

The NFC championship game should be a rematch of the 1984 title game between the

(continued)

(Predictions continued)

Niners and the Chicago Bears. The Bears still have the most dominating defense in professional football. In '86, they were first in total defense and scoring defense, second in both pass and rush defense, and third best at taking the ball away from opposing offenses. Their defensive unit placed four players on the All-Pro team: linebackers Mike Singletary and Wilber Marshall, tackle Steve McMichael and strong safety Dave Duerson.

Offensively, the Bears suffered when quarterback Jim McMahon was lost for most of the season to injury. Much of their success in the coming season depends on his recovery. Tackle Jimbo Covert was an All-Pro last year. He and center Jay Hilgenberg, as well as the sweetest running back in football history, Walter Payton, were Pro Bowlers. Payton rushed for 1,333 yards and eight touchdowns to move closer to his goal of 18,000 yards rushing.

To earn the right to face San Francisco, Chicago will have to get past the world champion New York Giants. The Giants still have the second-best defense in the game, just a hair behind the Bears; and they have a first-rate quarterback in Phil Simms, a dominating runner in Joe Morris, and an all but impossible to bring down receiver in tight end Mark Bavaro. But (and it's a big but), the Giants are the champs and can hardly avoid the same Super Bowl hangover that made the seemingly invincible 49ers in 1984 and Bears in 1985 beatable.

San Francisco's road to the championship will match the 49ers with a wild-card team on its way up—the Minnesota Vikings. The Vikings have more balance than any team but the Niners. In 1986, they were fourth in total offense and scoring offense, and fifth in scoring defense. All-Pro quarterback Tommy Kramer was the catalyst on offense, passing for 3,000 yards and 24 touchdowns, and only 10 interceptions. Defensively, Pro Bowl safety Joey Browner (139 tackles) and end Keith Millard (10½ sacks) are the stoppers.

Washington or the Los Angeles Rams will face the Vikings in the wild-card game. Offensively, Washington, led by quarterback Jay Schroeder (4,109 yards, 22 TDs), running back George Rogers (1,203 yards, 18 TDs) and receivers Gary Clark (74 catches, 1,265 yards, seven TDs) and Art Monk (73 catches, 1,068 yards, four TDs), is scary. Last season, the Redskins ranked fifth in total offense and ninth in scoring offense.

On defense, the Redskins were ninth in points allowed. Dexter Manley (18 sacks), Neal Olkewicz (183 tackles) and Darrell Green (five interceptions) lead the way.

The Rams had the fifth-best defense last year overall and were fourth in turnover-forces and scoring. Offense is another matter. Of course, they have Eric Dickerson, who rambled for 1,821 yards and 11 touchdowns, but their passing offense was last in the league. Second-year quarterback Jim Everett will have to show considerable improvement for the Rams to edge the 'Skins for the wild-card berth.

After narrowly missing last year, the New York Jets will rebound to win the AFC East over the New England Patriots. Despite a late-season slump, Jets quarterback Ken O'Brien passed for 3,690 yards and 25 touchdowns. Freeman McNeil (856 yards, five TDs) and Johnny Hector (605 yards, eight TDs) provide plenty of mileage at halfback. Defensively, the Jets must recover from injuries to Mark Gastineau, Lance Mehl, Marty Lyons and Joe Klecko in '86 that ranked them 26th overall in defense.

New England should gain a wild-card spot but still misses John Hannah, the offensive guard who made the Patriots' running game click when they went to Super Bowl XX. Last year, they ranked last in rushing. The passing game improved under quarterback Tony Eason. He passed for 3,328 yards and 19 touchdowns. Stanley Morgan (84 catches, 1,491 yards, 10 TDs) was his favorite target.

Defensively, the Pats ranked only 16th in total defense, but ninth best in points allowed. Free safety Fred Marion (95 solo tackles), end Garin Veris (11 sacks) and All-Pro linebacker Andre Tippett are standouts.

The Cincinnati Bengals should be the other AFC wild-card team. They're a team with a great offense but mediocre defense. A year ago, quarterback Boomer Esiason (3,959 yards, 24 TDs), running back James Brooks (1,087 yards rushing, five TDs and 54 catches, 686 yards, four TDs) and wide receiver Cris Collinsworth (62 catches, 1,024 yards, 10 TDs) gave Cincinnati the best offense in the NFL.

Defense was another matter. The Bengals were 20th in total defense and 22nd in points allowed. Coach Sam Wyche moved to strengthen the defense by using his first four draft picks for that purpose.

NFC EAST

1. **New York Giants**
2. **Washington**
3. **Dallas**
4. **Philadelphia**
5. **St. Louis**

Dallas could challenge for a playoff spot, but quarterback Danny White and running back Tony Dorsett must rebound from injuries, especially White. Backup quarterback Steve Pelluer finished ninth in NFC passing efficiency with a rating of 67.9. In 12 games, Pelluer threw 17 interceptions and only eight touchdown passes. In five games, White rated 97.9 with 12 touchdowns and five interceptions.

Dorsett's recovery looks promising. If he can come back, the Cowboys will have the most dangerous backfield in the league. Much was made of Herschel Walker's $1 million-per-year contract, especially by Dorsett. But it was apparent on the opening Monday night last year that Walker was special. He rallied Dallas past the eventual Super Bowl champion Giants, then went on to account for more than 1,500 rushing-receiving yards and 14 touchdowns during the remaining 15 games.

Although hampered by a knee injury that kept him out of four complete games and parts of others, Dorsett added over 1000 combined yards and six touchdowns.

For the second year in a row, Buddy Ryan predicts his Philadelphia Eagles will win the division. For the second year in a row, Buddy is wrong. Granted the Eagles have made progress, especially on defense where the famed 46 is firmly in place, but not enough to make the playoffs, much less go all the way.

The Eagles should press the Cowboys for third place in the division. The top defender is end Reggie White, who recorded 18 sacks. He has strong support at the other end from Greg Brown (nine sacks). On offense, Pro Bowler Mike Quick is the big-play man (60 catches, 939 yards, nine TDs).

Several years ago St. Louis looked like a team on the way up. Last year the Cardinals finished last in the division. They're destined to remain there in '87. Their offense, once potent with Neil Lomax pulling the trigger, was 26th overall last season.

NFC CENTRAL

1. **Chicago**
2. **Minnesota**
3. **Detroit**
4. **Green Bay**
5. **Tampa Bay**

Detroit would be the worst team in most divisions but can place third in the NFC Central because of the presence of the Bays (Green and Tampa).

The Lions were 24th in total offense in '86, despite the potential for a strong ground game with James Jones and Garry James. Quarterback is a big question mark in the hands of Eric Hipple and Joe Ferguson while Coach Darryl Rogers waits for Chuck Long to mature. The defense, led by safety Demetrious Johnson (92 solo tackles) and end Keith Ferguson (9½ sacks), was strong against the pass and in forcing turnovers, but not strong enough to carry the weak offense.

Green Bay can claim fourth thanks to Tampa Bay. On the surface, the Packers don't look all that bad. They were 12th in total defense and 18th in total offense last year, but those rankings are deceiving. More to the point, or points, Green Bay didn't score many (25th) or prevent many (27th).

Tampa Bay is arguably the weakest team in the NFL. Last season, the Buccaneers were better than 21st in only one offensive or defensive category: rushing offense (12th). They were last in total defense, next-to-last in scoring defense and total offense, and third-to-last in scoring offense.

NFC WEST

1. **San Francisco**
2. **L.A. Rams**
3. **Atlanta**
4. **New Orleans**

This is a very strong division. The fourth-place team could have a break-even record. Atlanta should finish third behind the 49ers and Rams.

The Falcons got off to a fast start a year ago and were challenging for a playoff berth until the untimely injury of quarterback Dave Archer. This is a franchise that has built through the draft, especially on defense, to where they ranked seventh overall and sixth in scoring defense a year ago. Rick Bryan, Tony Casillas, Scott Case, Bill Fralic and Gerald Riggs are impact players with five years or less in the NFL.

The Saints are also strong on defense (seventh in points allowed, fifth in turnovers forced). The defensive leader is Pro Bowl linebacker Rickey "The Slammer" Jackson. He slammed quarterbacks nine times and ball carriers 117 times.

The offense was another story, finishing 21st in total and 19th in scoring. While the Saints still search for a productive quarterback, they've found a running back—Offensive Rookie of the Year Rueben Mayes (1,353 yards, eight TDs).

AFC EAST

1. **New York Jets**
2. **New England**
3. **Miami**
4. **Indianapolis**
5. **Buffalo**

No, it's not a misprint. The Miami Dolphins will finish third in the division and have to watch the playoffs on television for the second straight year.

The reason is twofold: no defense nor running game.

At this point, the Dolphins are all pass and no playoffs. Sure, they still have Dan "The Arm" Marino and the "Marks Brothers" (Super Duper and Clayton). Sure, they were second in total offense and first in passing offense and points scored, but they were 25th in rushing offense.

On the other side of the ball, the Dolphins were 26th in total defense and forcing turnovers, 27th in defensing the run, 25th in points allowed and 22nd in pass defense (why throw the ball when you can run for touchdowns?). It's true that Hugh Green was injured, but he can't play all 11 positions.

The Colts should edge the Bills for fourth place. After quarterback Gary Hogeboom returned from an early-season injury, the Colts won their final three games over Atlanta, Buffalo and L.A. Raiders.

Hogeboom's favorite receivers, Matt Bouza and Bill Brooks, combined for 136 catches, over 1,900 yards and 13 touchdowns.

Buffalo still has quarterback Jim Kelly, who proved his worth by passing for 3,593 yards and 22 touchdowns in his NFL debut season, and sack specialist Bruce Smith, who fulfilled his potential with 15 takedowns. But the Bills have little else. They were 19th in total offense and 24th in total defense.

AFC CENTRAL

1. **Cleveland**
2. **Cincinnati**
3. **Pittsburgh**
4. **Houston**

Once the most unyielding in the league, the Steelers' defense sank to 18th overall in '86. Linebackers Mike Merriweather and Bryan Hinkle, and end Keith Willis stand out but need help. The draft gave the secondary a lift as All-Americans Rod Woodson and Thomas Everett were selected. The offense, once proficient at striking quickly and often, ranked 20th in total yards. Starting quarterback Mark Malone managed less than 2,500 yards in the air and threw more interceptions than touchdown passes. The offensive bright spot was the running game. Fullback Earnest Jackson gained 910 yards at 4.2 yards per carry and scored five touchdowns. Halfback Walter Abercrombie ran for 877 yards (4.1) and six touchdowns.

Houston is a team of youthful, unfulfilled promise. The Oilers' leaders in almost every major category have three years' experience or less. The offensive line reads like a who's who of college All-Americans. One of these years, the Oilers will surprise everyone. But not this year. Quarterback Warren Moon moves the ball all over the field but rarely gets it in the end zone. Houston was 23rd in scoring offense and 22nd in turnovers. The defense was only slightly better, ranking 16th in scoring defense and 21st in take-aways.

AFC WEST

1. **Denver**
2. **Seattle**
3. **L.A. Raiders**
4. **Kansas City**
5. **San Diego**

Seattle, Los Angeles and Kansas City are closely bunched behind the Broncos. A three-way tie for second is not impossible. All three teams could wind up with 9-7 records and be sitting at home when the regular season ends.

Seattle was fairly well-balanced last season. The Seahawks were eighth in total offense, fifth in rushing offense, 10th in scoring offense and third in fewest turnovers. Curt Warner made a successful comeback from injury and returned to the form he showed as a rookie four years ago.

The Seahawks ranked only 22nd in total defense, but were 12th against the run, eighth in points allowed and 14th in forcing turnovers. Linebacker Fredd Young (121 tackles) and end Jacob Green (12 sacks) are keys on the defensive unit.

The Los Angeles Raiders have one glaring problem: no quarterback. They have everything else to return to the Super Bowl, but until they get a new triggerman, forget it. Halfback Marcus Allen and tight end Todd Christensen provide a lot of offense, but the missing link is behind the center.

Hope springs eternal in Kansas City. Frank Gansz, the man who coached the most productive special teams in the league a year ago—the same special teams that catapulted the Chiefs into the playoffs—is now the head coach. Kansas City was eighth in total defense and first in forcing turnovers, but dead last in total offense, primarily because of a practically nonexistent running game.

San Diego has the same problems as Miami, which are the same problems the Chargers have always had: no running game and no defense. Unlike Miami, they don't have Indianapolis and Buffalo to block the cellar door.

END

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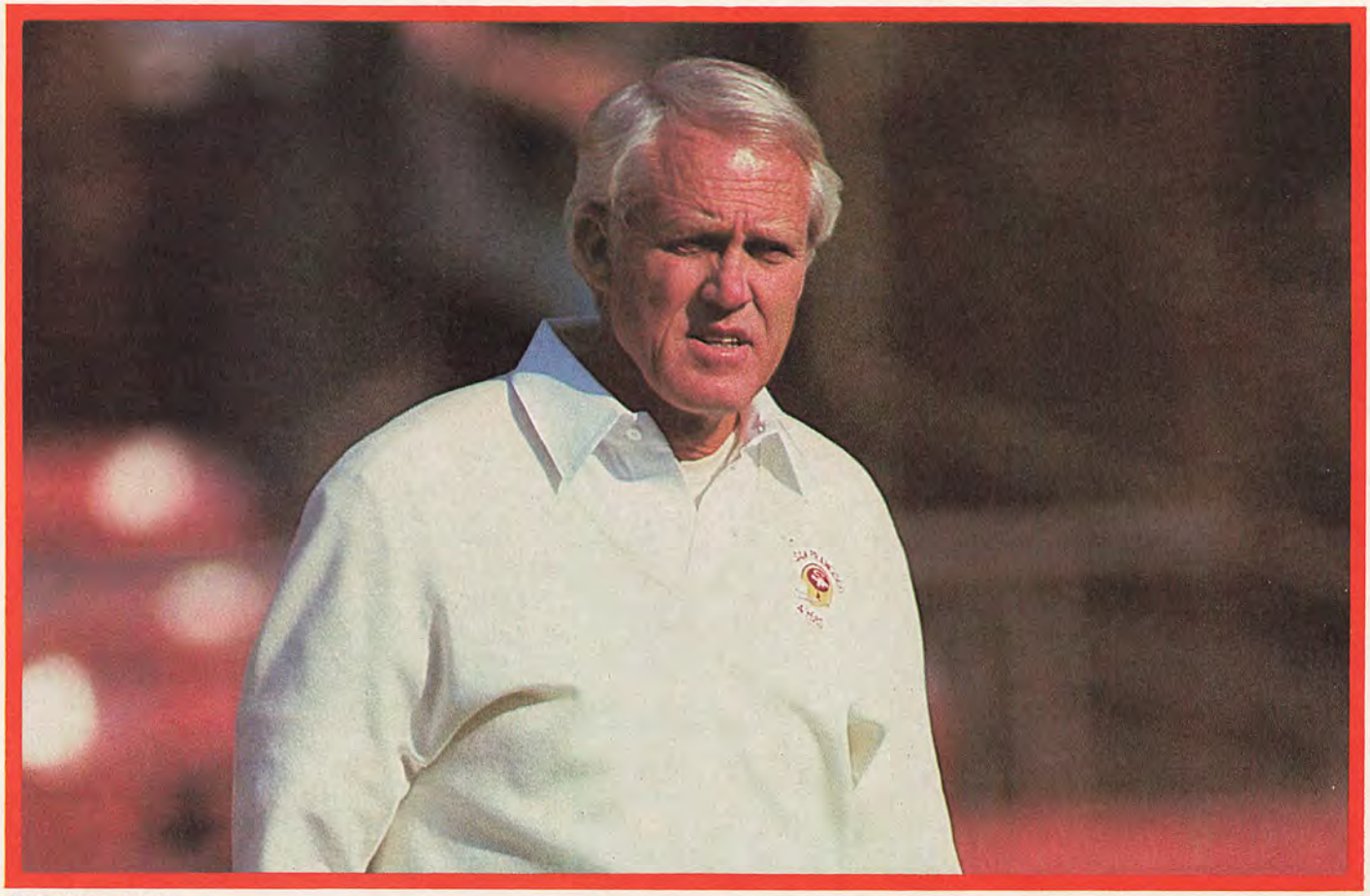


(Predictions continued)

Bill Walsh of the San Francisco 49ers
ATHLON'S NFL COACH OF THE YEAR

Bill Walsh of the San Francisco 49ers is *Athlon's* choice as 1987 Pro Football Coach of the Year.

Last season, when the nation's eyes were focused on Bill Parcells and the Super Bowl-champion New York Giants, the 55-year-old Walsh was setting his sights on showing that San Francisco may still be the most prominent team of the 1980s. The 49ers, winners of Super Bowls XVI and XIX, finished the 1986 regular season with a 10-5-1 record and their fourth NFC Western Division title since 1981.

***Athlon* sees San Francisco winning Super Bowl XXII and Walsh becoming only the second coach to win at least three pro championships. (Chuck Noll of the Pittsburgh Steelers has won four).**

It didn't take Walsh long to establish his reputation as a winner in the NFL. In only his third year as head coach of the 49ers, in 1981, Walsh was Coach of the Year after leading his team to a 26-21 Super Bowl victory over Cincinnati.

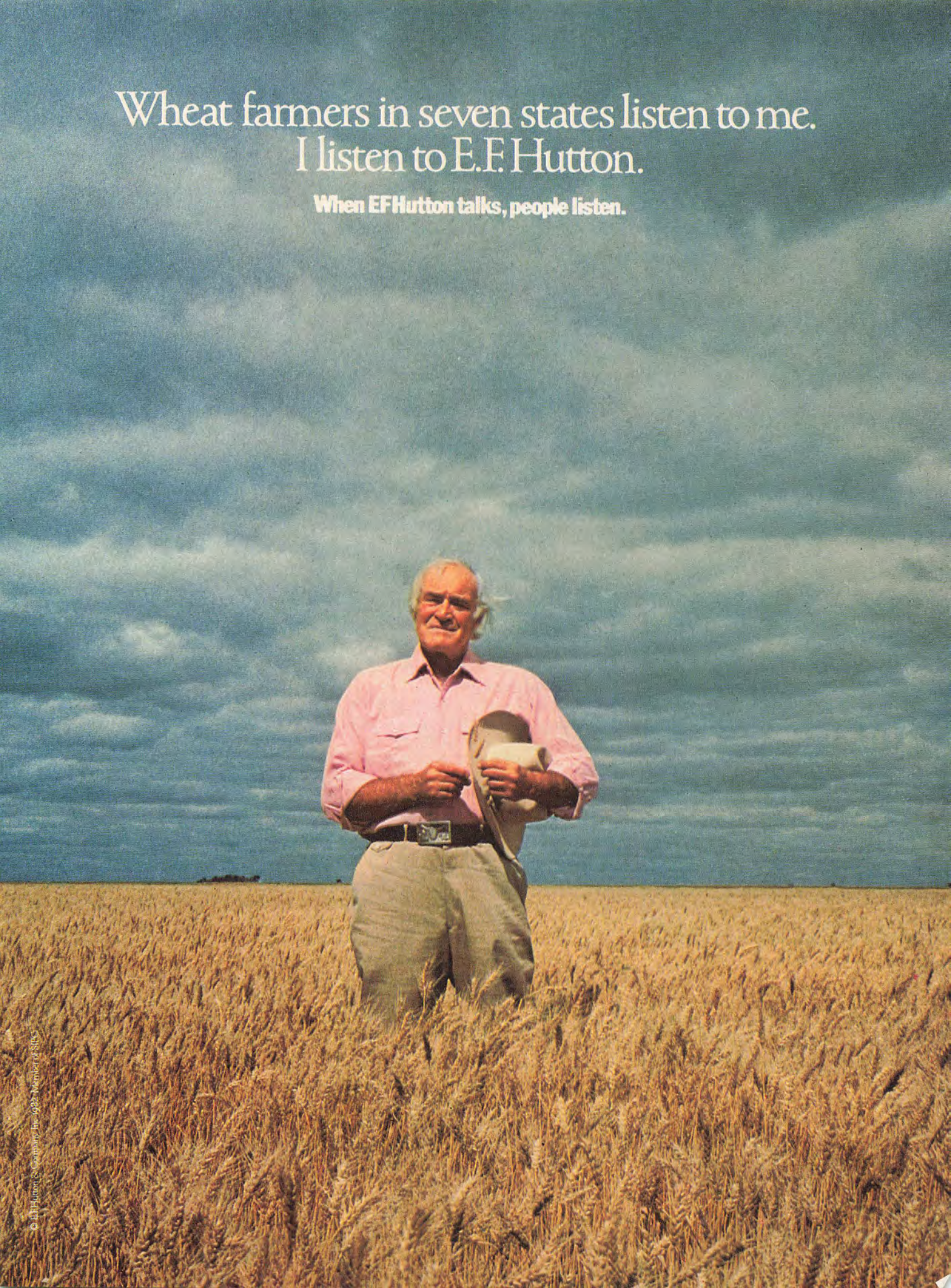
That achievement was surpassed in 1984, when Walsh became the first NFL coach to win 18 games in one season. Following San Francisco's surprisingly easy (38-16) victory over the Miami Dolphins in Super Bowl XIX, Walsh was again picked NFL Coach of the Year.

Though his last two seasons haven't been as productive, Walsh has firmly planted San Francisco among the consistently successful teams of modern times in the NFL. Since 1981, the 49ers have won 68 games, an average of over 11 a season. Walsh's 76 victories broke the club record of 72 held by Lawrence T. Shaw, San Francisco's first coach.

Walsh, who is known for his offensive creativity, got his start in pro football as the Oakland Raiders' backfield coach in 1966.

A native Californian, Walsh played end at San Jose State in the early 1950s. He received a master's degree in education in 1959.

END


Wheat farmers in seven states listen to me.
I listen to E.F. Hutton.
When EF Hutton talks, people listen.

ATLANTA

To understand what Dave Archer has accomplished by merely surviving in Atlanta, you must check the credentials of the NFL's 16 top-rated passers in 1986.

Among the Elways and Marinos, nine of the leading 16 passers were drafted in the first round.

Then there are cases like Seattle's Dave Krieg and Archer. They are oddballs in this high-tech game of computerized chess. They weren't even drafted by an NFL team. According to all of the computers in all of the scouting offices in the world, they shouldn't be with us today.

Archer led Atlanta to a 4-0 start in 1986, and it shocked the entire state of Georgia. Even more surprising, the Falcons might have finished with a winning record if his right shoulder hadn't been separated during the 11th game against Chicago.

"It's too bad that we couldn't have seen more of David," owner Rankin Smith Jr. says. "And the thing we're excited about is that we think he's going to get better. I don't think he's a fluke. I'll be the first to admit—and there were a bunch of other people, too—that I was wrong about the guy. He's got a bright future in this league."

Indeed. But Archer has heard criticism since he was a mediocre high school quarterback in Soda Springs, Idaho. It followed him to Snow Junior College in Ephraim, Utah. It followed him all the way to Ames, Iowa, where he was finally able to land a major college job during his last two seasons at Iowa State.

"I'll be the first to admit—and there were a bunch of other people, too—that I was wrong about the guy. He's got a bright future in this league."

It followed him to Atlanta, too. The Falcons were so disappointed with Archer's performance in 1985 that they organized a nationwide manhunt for his replacement. Archer must have been shaking in his cleats when Turk Schonert was acquired from Cincinnati. According to his buildup, Schonert was supposed to become the next Dan Marino.

"When you're me, you're used to people putting you down," Archer says. "I realize a lot of people never expected much from me in the NFL. But I've been hearing that all my life."

Remembering the criticism, Archer adds, "Since I was a kid, I've always had people tell me what I can't do. It motivates me. Coming from a small school like I did, people told me there was no way I could play major college ball. So I had to go an alternate route, through junior college.

"Then I played on a team that wasn't as successful as some other teams in the Big Eight. Again, they told me I wouldn't be able to play pro ball. When I got here, they told me I would never start. So, you see, I'm used to it. I enjoy making people eat their words—not by anything I say, but by my actions on the field."

Archer says he was assured by NFL scouts that he would be selected by the sixth round of the 1984 draft.

"They didn't tell me I might be drafted, they told me I *would* be drafted," says Archer. But nobody wanted him, so he signed as a free agent with Atlanta the day after the draft.

"The Falcons had gone with only two quarterbacks the year before," he says, "but they said they were interested in keeping three. That was a big plus."

When Steve Bartkowski reinjured his right knee early in the '85 season and was lost for the year, the job fell into rookie Archer's lap. Out of fear or frustration, Archer led all NFL quarterbacks that season in rushing with 347 yards. Still, playing behind a patchwork offensive line, he was sacked 43 times. He became the human pinball for a team that truly needed a wizard at quarterback.

The Atlanta coaches worked during the off-season trying to settle Archer's anxious feet. He did lack certain physical tools—like a strong arm. But he learned to read defenses much quicker than the average rookie quarterback.

"I learned to be more efficient when I run," Archer says. "I'm not going to break anybody's back by going 75 or 80 yards. But if I can pick up three or four first downs

(continued)

Dave Archer was barely holding on after disappointing the Falcons in 1985, but he showed them something last year.

FALCONS
16
16

←*To wear 77, Red Grange's old number, is an honor that end Rick Bryan lives up to.*

(Atlanta continued)

on third-down situations, that's going to help."

Archer was the NFL's top-rated quarterback for the first three weeks last season. His rating stayed above 100 through the fifth week.

His 65-yard pass to Floyd Dixon set up a last-minute field goal that beat Dallas in the third week. Afterwards, the Falcons were met by 1000 fans at the Atlanta airport. A town that had grown apathetic about its habitual loser finally had something to cheer about.

What's next for Archer and the Falcons?

"I think that we will only get better," he says. "When you play our kind of defense, you've always got a chance to make the playoffs. Now it's time for the offense to pull its share of the load."

Archer has completely recovered from shoulder surgery. Atlanta coaches are hoping that a stringent off-season conditioning program will not only strengthen his shoulder but also will add zip to his passes. Critics still believe Archer's arm isn't strong enough to lead the Falcons back to the playoffs.

"If I improve as much as I did last year, I'm going to get a lot better," he says. "I happen to think I'm the quarterback who *can* lead this team to the playoffs."

The Falcons desperately need to make big plays. Only three times during the 1986 season did the Falcons score a touchdown of more than 25 yards. The longest rushing touchdown was four yards.

There's no legitimate excuse for the absence of big plays when you consider that running back Gerald Riggs has rushed for more than 1000 yards in each of the last three seasons (1,327 in '86) and that wide receiver Charlie Brown finished last season with 918 receiving yards and 63 catches.

With offensive coordinator Rod Dowhower moving to Atlanta from Indianapolis, the Falcons will have a more varied offense. There is talk of using more of the two-back offense instead of relying on Riggs strictly in the one-back set. Dowhower would like to use William Andrews more at fullback. Andrews returned last season after a two-year rehabilitation program for a restructured right knee. He carried 52 times for 214 yards.

In a strange twist, owner Smith learned from a story in *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution* that Dowhower and former St. Louis Coach Jim Hanifan would be interested in joining the Falcons' staff. Dowhower and Hanifan told writer Chris Mortensen they would be interested in the Atlanta jobs if Marion Campbell were promoted to head coach.

Hanifan and Dowhower collaborated a few years ago to create an exciting offense in St. Louis. Dowhower was responsible for the development of Cardinals quarterback Neil Lomax. Both have proven to be valuable Falcon staff members.

Hanifan has said All-Pro Bill Fralic will play guard exclusively this season. Fralic shifted

Guess who won this confrontation involving running back Gerald Riggs and guard Bill Fralic of the Falcons, and linebacker Carl Ekern of the Rams.

between guard and tackle last season to accommodate injury problems.

Hanifan is also considering moving guard John Scully to center. Scully missed two games last season after injuring his right leg, which was fractured early in the 1985 season.

Others starting on offense are H-back Ken Whisenhunt, wide receiver Dixon (42 catches for 617 yards), tight end Arthur Cox, tackles Mike Kenn and Brett Miller, Scully at guard (if not center) and center Wayne Radloff.

The Falcons said goodbye to 18-year veteran center Jeff Van Note, who again made the All-(John) Madden team and played in more games (246) than any other offensive lineman in pro football history.

Predictably, the Falcons were last season's most improved defensive team in scoring defense and yards allowed. It was the work of Campbell, who returned in 1985 as defensive coordinator before replacing Dan Henning, who was fired, as head coach.

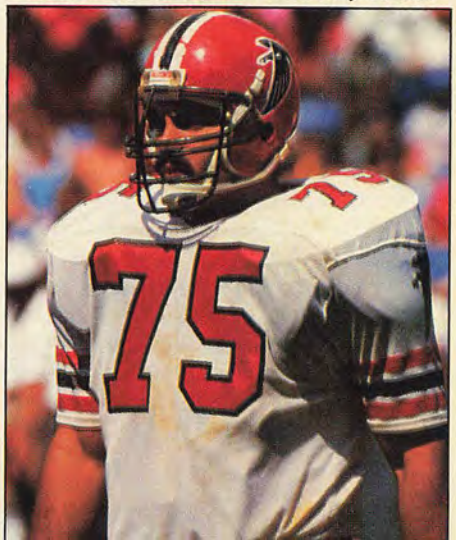
After allowing a league-high 452 points in 1985, the Falcons gave up only 280 last season, an improvement of 11 points per game. In only three games (Dallas, New York Jets and Indianapolis) did the defense allow more than two touchdowns. Atlanta also gave up 60 fewer yards per game than in the previous season.

With rookie Tony Casillas assuming the nose tackle position, the Falcons shifted to a 3-4 defensive alignment.

On either side of Casillas are Mike Gann and Rick Bryan, who had five and one-half and seven sacks respectively to lead the team. Linebackers are Reggie Wilkes, Buddy Curry, John Rade and Joel Williams. In the secondary are Bobby Butler, who is expected to recover from a leg injury, Scott Case, Robert Moore and Bret Clark.

Now, Campbell must solve a cross section of problems. He was actually the fourth choice of the Smith family. The Falcons offered the job to ex-Eagles Coach Dick Vermeil, then to UCLA Coach Terry Donahue. The Falcons couldn't get permission to interview Bill Parcells a few days after his New York Giants won Super Bowl XXI.

Atlanta's defense improved with Tony Casillas.



It is Campbell's third head coaching job and the second time he has led the Falcons. He was Atlanta's head coach from 1974-76 and Philadelphia's head coach from 1983-85.

"This is a totally different situation than when I was here in the 1970s," Campbell says. "The front office, the coaches and the players are totally committed to developing an outstanding football team. We'll be competitive and work hard so we can bring a winner to Atlanta. We won't make a lot of changes. We have a lot better team than when I was here before."

Having played with or coached five different NFL teams, Campbell has excellent credentials as a defensive coordinator. His Eagles led the NFL in fewest points allowed for six straight seasons, 1977 through '82.

With the promotion of Campbell, the Falcons have virtually cleaned house the last two years. Tom Braatz, former director of scouting, moved to Green Bay's front office, leaving Campbell in complete charge of the operation.

The Falcons could stand success, not having qualified for the playoffs since 1982.

END

NEW ORLEANS

So how does one go from the snowdrifts of North Battleford, Saskatchewan, to the creole country of New Orleans to become the NFL's hottest new running back in one crazy season?

Ask Rueben Mayes, the NFL's first legitimate star from Canada and a man who might still be shoveling snow if not for a run of luck that began far away in a Canadian farming town of 14,000.

"I used to always dream about playing in the NFL, even when it was snowing up in Canada and not many people were thinking about football," Mayes says. "The NFL never really seemed that far away. When I played high school football, I used to pretend that I was a big pro star. You know, somebody like O.J. Simpson."

Remarkably, Mayes was the NFL's offensive rookie of the year during the 1986 season. Even more remarkably, there is talk in New Orleans that Mayes will be far better in 1987.

"The NFL never really seemed that far away. When I played high school football, I used to pretend that I was a big pro star. You know, somebody like O.J. Simpson."

Consider that Mayes gained 1,353 yards (4.7 average) on a bad wheel, and you get the picture. He didn't even start until the fifth regular-season game, but still averaged well over 100 yards per game.

A frayed Achilles tendon was repaired last December, making it possible for Mayes to be far more productive.

Doctors aren't sure when the injury occurred, or how it occurred, although it was discovered near the end of summer training camp. It bothered him most of the season, but not enough to stop him from almost leading the 7-9 Saints to their first winning season.

"Given all that happened, Rueben was a pretty amazing player last season," Saints Coach Jim Mora says. "He's a tough individual. And we think that he will only get better. He certainly doesn't mind working at it."

The Achilles tendon is often compared to a rope. Several of the fibers had broken loose, causing nagging soreness and inflammation.

Mayes was even willing to bypass the Pro Bowl so the foot could be repaired in time for off-season conditioning. Not many players are willing to skip a Pro Bowl, especially during their rookie season. But Mayes is not your run-of-the-mill player.

"I had to get myself back onto a schedule," he says. "I believe in working hard. As a matter of fact, it was hard work that got me into the starting lineup, and it was the biggest reason that I ended up having a good season."

After breaking into the lineup, Mayes had six 100-yard games, including a 203-yard performance against the Dolphins. Not bad for a guy who was the 13th running back selected in the 1986 draft and wasn't even taken until early in the third round. Not bad for a player whom the scouts turned their backs on in the final weeks leading to the draft.

"I think Rueben Mayes would have been a first-round draft choice until the tryout camp," says Cowboys chief scout Gil Brandt. "But he dropped a couple of passes and a couple of things went wrong. And the next thing you know, a guy like Rueben Mayes slips all the way to the third round."

Ironically, the tryout camp for more than 300 NFL prospects was held in the Louisiana Superdome where Mayes would play for the Saints.

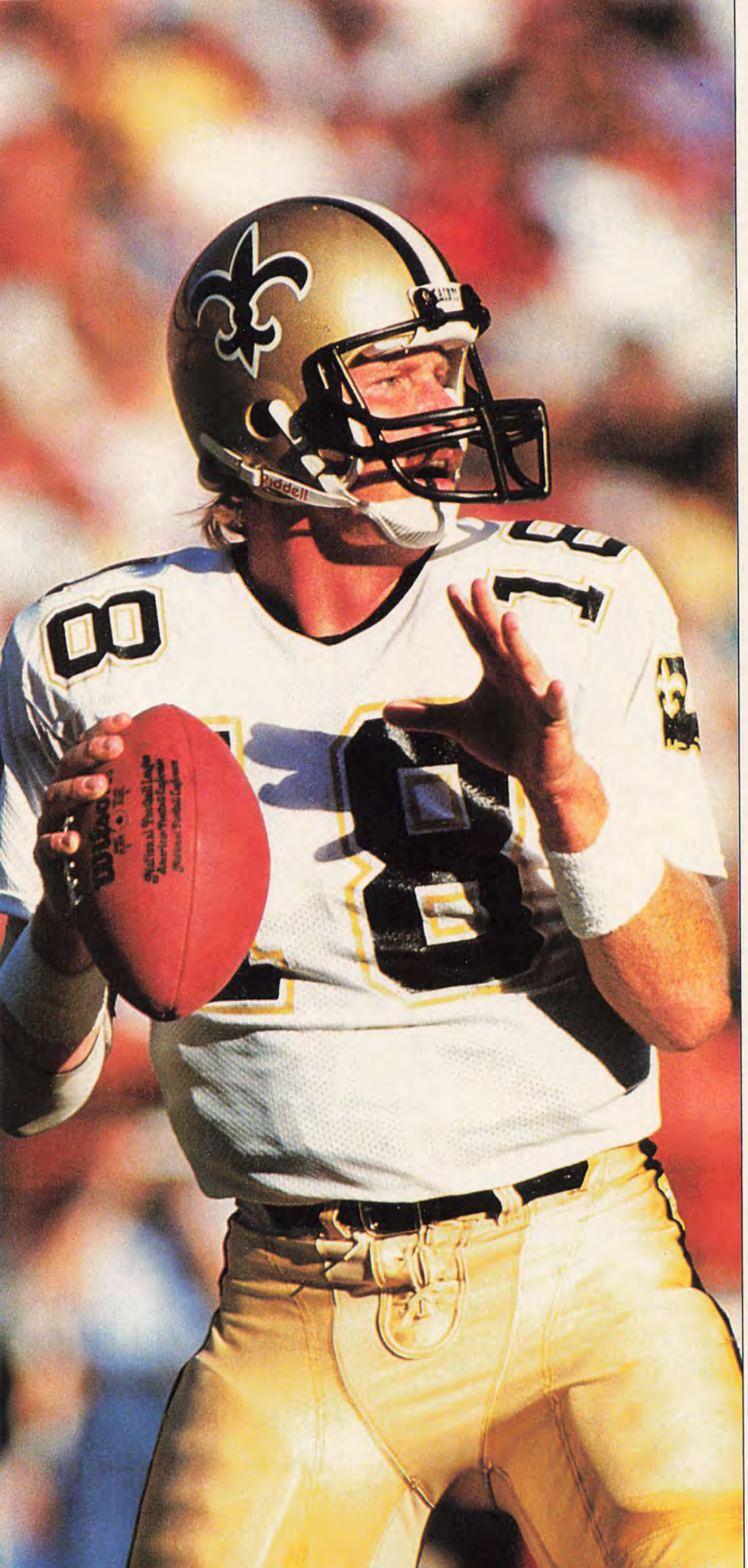
NFL scouting, a multimillion dollar industry that employs enough computers to store the Library of Congress, missed on Mayes. How is it possible when you consider the time and money invested by the 28 teams?

Dick Steinberg, New England Patriots director of player personnel, says Mayes' stock began to fall when he didn't perform well in the postseason all-star games.

"That's not Rueben's fault," Steinberg says. "They drop back and throw the balls during those games. Rueben wasn't necessarily ready for that. He'd been involved

(continued)

As a rookie, Rueben Mayes became a Sainted figure with New Orleans fans.



Saints fans expect Dave Wilson to at least equal his uniform number in TD tosses.

(New Orleans continued)

in a running offense at Washington State. He was used to running the ball."

It was feared that Mayes, despite his speed, was too much of a straight-ahead runner. When he played at Washington State, the Cougars had used a split backfield with a straight-ahead running philosophy.

Scouts underestimated Mayes' passion for the game, his ambition to be an NFL star and his desire to become the first Canadian star in America's No. 1 sport.

It was feared that Mayes, despite his speed, was too much of a straight-ahead runner.

"When I was walking around as a kid, and it'd be snowing, I'd dream about playing in the NFL," Mayes says. "Then it became just a matter of working my way into the Saints' plans, of getting some breaks and eventually getting to the starting lineup."

Mayes might have been from Canada, but he had been a candidate for the Heisman Trophy. He broke the NCAA single-game mark of 357 yards and the two-game record of 573 yards. He led the Pac-10 in rushing his final two seasons and broke every school record.

At times, former Cougar Coach Jim Walden, now at Iowa State, turned Mayes into a one-man offense. It wasn't unusual for him to carry the ball 30 to 35 times a game.

Walden had been somewhat skeptical about signing a Canadian who had about as much football training as a junior high school player in the United States.

"When he got here as a college freshman, he wasn't much better than a good Texas or Louisiana high school sophomore," Walden says. "His technical part of the game was underdeveloped. But Rueben took every bit of advice that I could give to him and worked hard at it. He'll work out harder in two hours than most players will in three hours with a coach around."

Mayes had been recommended to Walden by Edmonton Eskimos Coach Hugh Campbell, who would later spend two years as coach of the Houston Oilers.

At first, Mayes seemed to be an oddity, and he definitely lacked the background of the other incoming Washington State freshmen.

"I knew I was behind," Mayes says. "I mean, I knew I was different, a running back from Canada and a black one at that. But I showed them my potential. Then they realized I would work hard. So they accepted me pretty well."

After watching Mayes for four seasons, Walden could hardly believe it when NFL teams failed to draft him in the first two rounds.

"The fact that they drafted 12 running backs ahead of him just wears me out," Walden

(continued)

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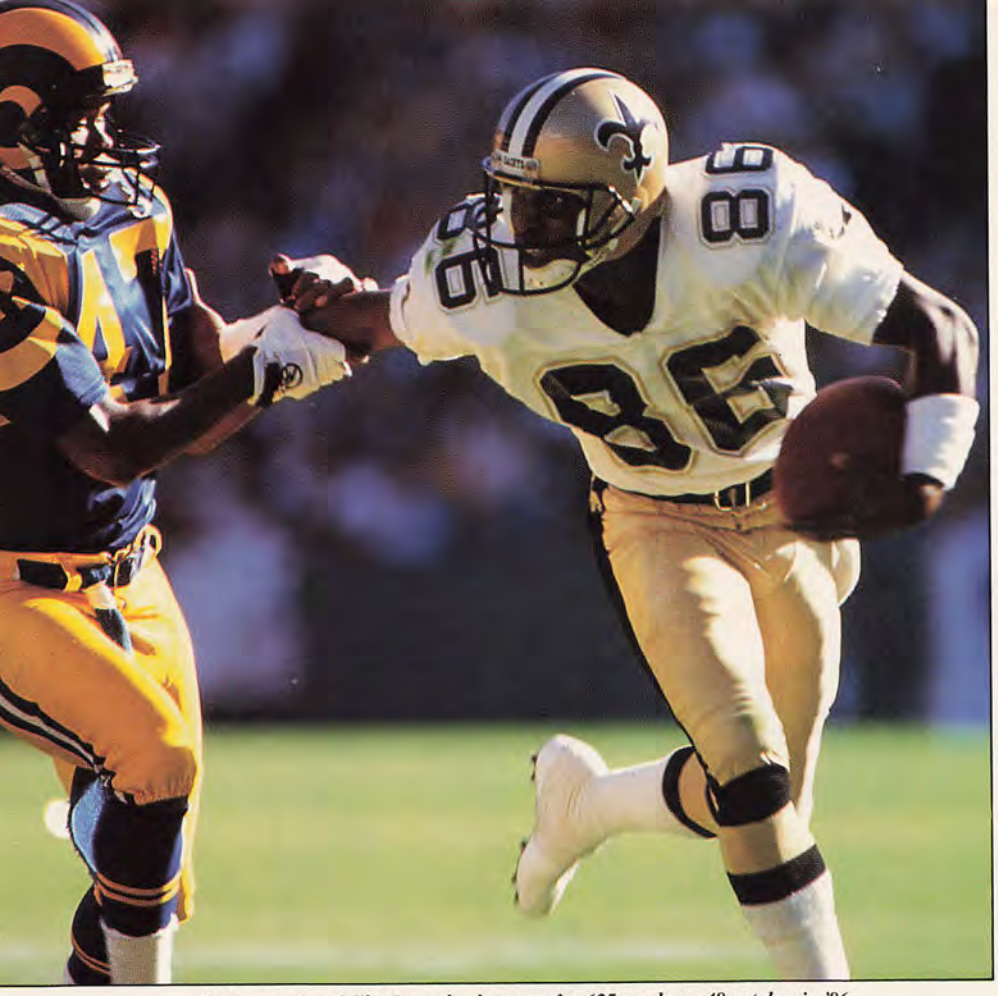


Saints receiver Mike Jones broke away for 625 yards on 48 catches in '86.

(New Orleans continued)

says. "How can anyone spend that kind of money on scouting and not have Rueben at the top of the list?"

Like Walden, Saints Coach Jim Mora quickly recognized the work ethic. Mayes was one of the first draftees to sign his contract and never left New Orleans after the deal was struck. He virtually attacked the off-season conditioning program.

"One thing that I immediately noticed about Rueben," says General Manager Jim Finks, "is that not one rookie or veteran worked any harder. Nobody prepared any harder for the season. And just look what happened. He had one of those years that people will talk about for a lot of years."

The work ethic came early. The eldest of seven children, Mayes helped raise the family, along with working in his father's auto body shop. But while he was working, Mayes was also dreaming.

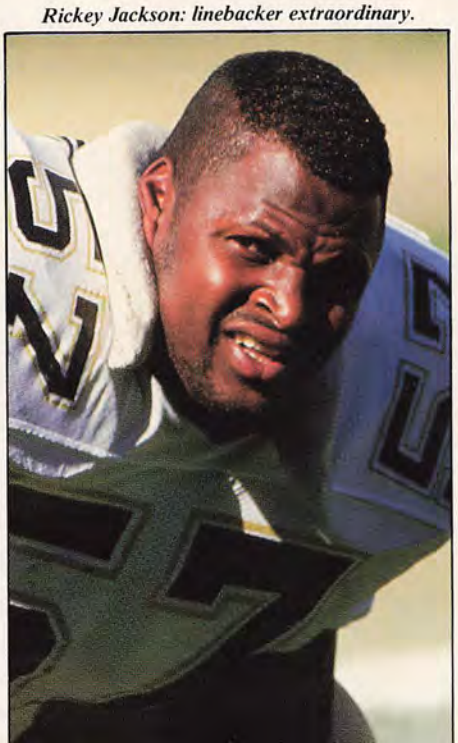
"I have always been motivated to work because I wanted to be the best," he says. "I've always believed that working hard, along with doing the intelligent thing at the right time, will get you where you want to go."

At age 7, Mayes was getting up at 7 a.m. to follow a self-imposed training routine to improve his performance in track meets. But Sundays were reserved for watching NFL games on TV and gazing into his future.

No doubt, the New Orleans running game was in good shape last season. The Saints also happen to have ex-LSU star Dalton Hilliard (121 carries for 425 yards) in their starting backfield, giving the team a double threat. Fullback Buford Jordan, running occasionally inside, netted 207 yards on 68 tries.

But the passing game is still the pits. Starting quarterback Dave Wilson finished the 1986 season with a 65.8 passing rating and only 10 touchdown passes. There is still hope for ex-USFL quarterback Bobby Hebert, who won the job in the '86 training camp but got hurt and missed six weeks. Hebert is now on equal ground with Wilson, and the Saints would certainly like him to start paying dividends on his $1.3 million contract.

Rickey Jackson: linebacker extraordinary.



Hebert showed promise near the end of the 1985 season, leading New Orleans to back-to-back victories over Minnesota and the Rams. But, like Wilson, he's had trouble consistently reading NFL defenses. A spectacular USFL career didn't prepare him for the NFL.

"Bobby looked good in the USFL," says ex-Saints quarterback Archie Manning. "But those USFL defenses were nothing. That's why you can't consider him a four-year pro quarterback. This is just the beginning for him."

New Orleans was one of only five NFL teams last season to allow fewer than 30 sacks while averaging more than four yards per rushing attempt. Led by guard Brad Edelman, New Orleans may have the NFL's best young offensive line. From left to right, the starting group is Bill Contz, Edelman, center Steve Korte, Chuck Commiskey and Stan Brock.

The wide receivers are Mike Jones (48 catches for 625 yards and three touchdowns) and Eric Martin (37 for 675 yards and five TDs). Tight end John Tice had 37 catches for 330 yards and three TDs.

Defense is where the Saints truly draw their strength. The defense set a club record by not allowing a score for eight consecutive quarters. Only three running backs—Atlanta's Cliff Austin, Washington's George Rogers and L.A. Rams' Eric Dickerson—gained more than 100 rushing yards on New Orleans.

Behind Lawrence Taylor, Rickey Jackson may be the best outside linebacker in the NFC. He has four straight trips to the Pro Bowl as proof. Dave Waymer was one of the NFL's interception leaders with nine and the other starting cornerback, Johnnie Poe, is no slouch.

Other usual starters are inside linebackers Sam Mills and Alvin Toles, outside backer James Haynes, down linemen Bruce Clark, Tony Elliott and Jim Wilks, and Antonio Gibson and Frank Wattelet in the secondary.

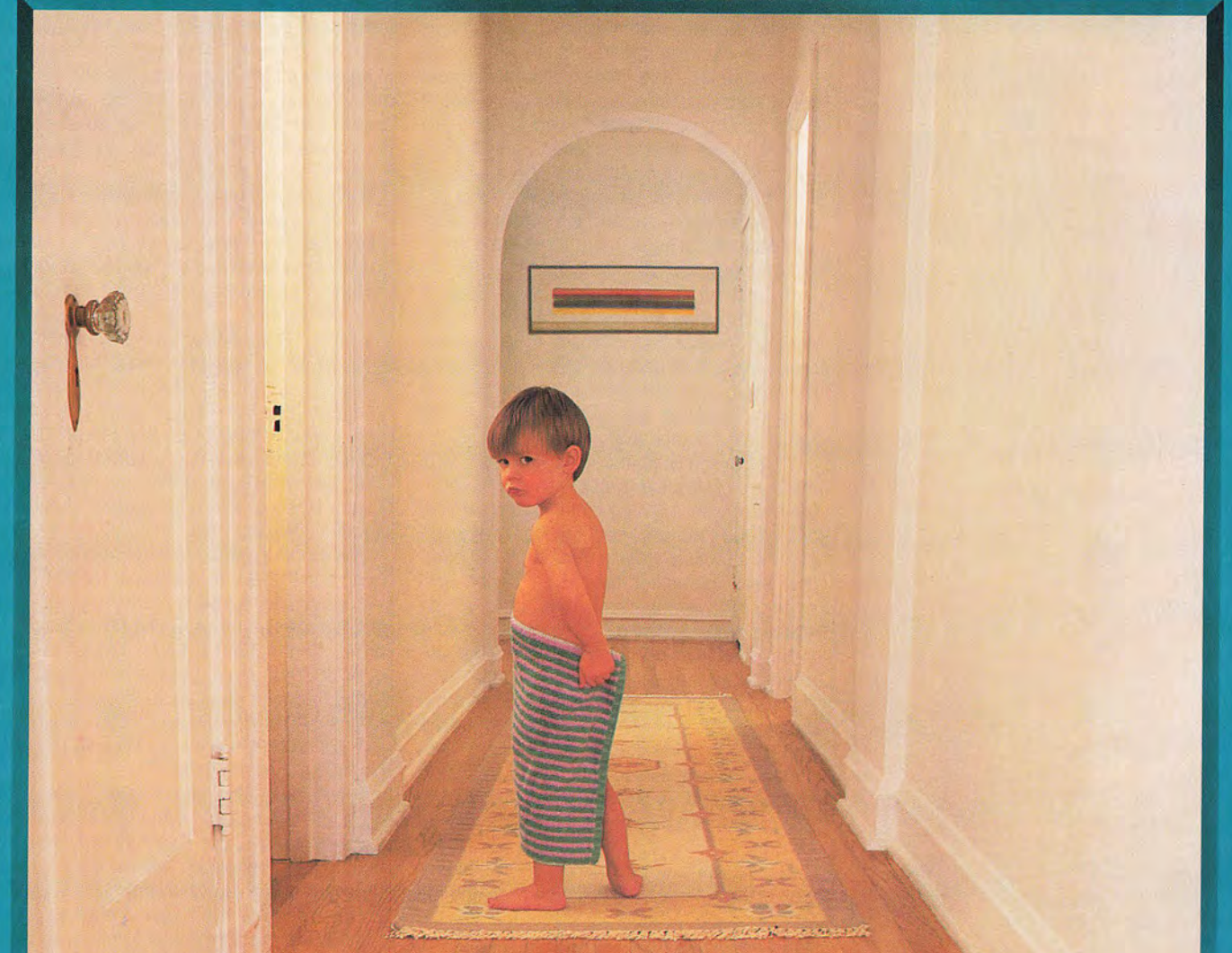
Morten Anderson has become the NFL's most accurate kicker, having made 26 of 30 field-goal attempts in 1986 along with being selected All-Pro. Brian Hansen had a 42.7-yard punting average.

All the ingredients are there for the team's first winning season. His peers expect Mora to become one of the NFL's best coaches. Finks has all the credentials, too, having built the Vikings into a Super Bowl team and the Bears into a playoff contender.

So, at last fans in New Orleans may be stashing those sacks they wore over their heads in 1980 when the Saints finished 1-15. The bagheads are dead in New Orleans.

END

S M A L L



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(Green Bay continued)

anybody besides themselves in the NFC Central? The Packers, young and old, aren't sure and neither is Gregg. "With all those veterans going last season, some who stayed were extremely nervous," says Gregg. "They were waiting for the other shoe to fall. Even though you assure somebody that he is in your plans, if his buddy left last week, he doesn't necessarily believe you. Some of the veterans probably said, 'What's going on here? He doesn't like anybody over 20 years old.'

"It wasn't that, of course. I told the players later on that they were here for a specific purpose and reason. I said, 'You're here because I chose you. And because you fit a need, and because you're the type of player that we think we can win with.' And I could see the lights go on in their eyes."

What Gregg liked about his 4-12 team was that none of his players stopped trying. Even in the final game, a 55-24 rout by the New York Giants, the Packers kept hustling. They even scored a tactical victory with an all-out effort that kept linebacker Lawrence Taylor from getting the two sacks he needed to set an all-time season record.

"We had nothing going for us but harassment," says Gregg, "harassment that was caused by our own conduct. And it affected the players that were not involved, it really did. You know, nobody likes to be called a cheap-shotter. Nobody likes to hear that a guy should be suspended for life. And that you ought to quit because your players are playing so violently."

Gregg was referring to a two-game suspension of end Charles Martin for body-slamming Chicago quarterback Jim McMahon to the turf. There were reports that the Packers had a "hit list" of Bears that they wanted to get.

Martin missed two and a half games because of the late hit. But Gregg likes Martin's aggressive demeanor. "He was really making an impact," says Gregg. The other down linemen include 6-6 Alphonso Carreker; 11-year veteran Ezra Johnson, a No. 1 pick in 1977 and the acknowledged leader of the defense; and Robert Brown, a pass-rushing specialist who always seems to be around the ball.

Harris, who started the final 10 games as a rookie, is a bright spot at linebacker. Young Brian Noble, a 252-pound hitter; Randy Scott, a seventh-year former free agent; and 10-year veteran John Anderson, who missed most of the season with leg and ankle injuries, are all capable. Still, the Packers need a big-play backer, and may have gotten one in second-round pick Johnny Holland from Texas A&M.

The secondary, headed by Lee, is unsettled, with Lewis retired and Cade's play affected by his run-in with the law. The two third-year safeties, Ken Stills and George "Tiger" Greene, are both alert, aggressive athletes. Gregg says of Stills, "Our whole defense has sort of adopted his attitude. He's aggressive by nature, and now he knows what's legal and what isn't."

The Packers will come out hitting and trying to intimidate their opponents this season. But can their ever-changing offense put enough points on the board to win? That's the question that has haunted Gregg since he became the Packers' coach in 1984.

Having failed to deal for a quarterback, the Packers seem content with Wright as their quarterback for a second year. Wright suffered from a concussion and neck sprain, as well as the flu, but still started all 16 games and passed for 3,247 yards.

"Randy Wright has answered a lot of questions for us, for our critics and for his supporters," says Gregg. "He had tremendous setbacks early. But Randy may be, overall, the most improved player on this team." Chuck Fusina, a championship quarterback in the USFL, is Wright's designated backup. Young Robbie Bosco's future is uncertain because of a shoulder problem.

The running game sputtered all year, averaging only 100.9 yards a game. Neither Kenneth Davis (519 yards) nor Gary Ellerson (287 yards) impressed Gregg. But Paul Carruth, a former Birmingham Stallion, blasted for 308 yards and caught 24 passes at fullback. And Gregg has to be pleased about his No. 1 draft pick, Auburn's Brent Fullwood. Fullwood has 4.47 speed and should immediately upgrade the Packer rushing attack.

The Packers also added Iowa's Dave Croston, a 280-pound tackle, on the third round as a challenge to Green Bay's already youthful offensive line. Left tackle Ken Ruettgers (1985) and right guard Ron Hallstrom (1982) were first-round picks. Right tackle Alan Veingrad and 306-pound right guard Tom Neville were free-agent discoveries. Mark Cannon was the eighth center picked in the 1984 draft.

"Ruettgers improved week by week," says Wampfler. "Cannon is the best center I've ever coached. Veingrad was brought in with about eight other kids and worked for two months in the off-season. He's a good kid, real intelligent. He came along, worked hard and made it."

With Lofton gone, Epps (49 catches for 612 yards and four touchdowns) and Walter Stanley (35 for 723, two TDs) become the big-play receivers. Ex-halfback Eddie Lee Ivery has been switched to wide receiver. Ed West and Dan Ross are the tight ends.

The Packers could improve their kicking game. Al Del Greco, who replaced Eddie Garcia three years ago, made only 17 of 27 field goals and had problems with the length of his kickoffs. The Packers ranked 27th in punting, using Bill Renner (41.5-yard average, 30.6-yard net) and then Don Bracken (40.1-yard average, 32.8-yard net). Renner had three punts blocked in three games. Not to be outdone, Bracken had two. Accordingly, the Packers drafted Mississippi's Bill Smith, rated one of the best punters in the country.

END

(Detroit continued)

4-11-1, 7-9 and 5-11, going 0-6 against Chicago during that span.

Losing teams invariably throw more often than winners, meaning that Chadwick has had more than his share of chances to match wits and moves with opposing cornerbacks. "Unlike most guys with long strides," says Hipple, "Jeff can go into a break at 100 mph and come out of it going just as fast. Most of the long striders shorten their steps, take choppy ones when getting into their breaks. He doesn't do that."

Even Rogers couldn't believe Chadwick's speed. "In some statistics, he has world-class speed," says Rogers. "I'm talking about the top five percent."

Chadwick caught 40 passes as a rookie, then followed with seasons of 37, 25 (he missed half the season with a broken collarbone) and 53 catches. His four-year totals are 155 catches for 2,630 yards and 14 TDs, and an impressive average of 17 yards.

Yet heading into the 1987 season, the Lions still have an uncertain feeling about their receivers. They went strictly for defense in the draft, taking pass-rushing end Reggie Rogers, nose tackle Jerry Ball, defensive back Garland Rivers and linebacker Danny Lockett in the early rounds. Indeed, there were questions about the entire offense, which ranked 24th in the league. Chadwick is coming off an Achilles tendon injury. Leonard Thompson will be 35 the week the veterans report to training camp. Mark Nichols, a backup flanker, who was a No. 1 pick in 1981, missed the entire season after knee surgery, his third serious injury.

"The wide receivers are a question mark," says Rogers. "I think Chadwick should have had 1000 yards before his injury. He was inconsistent at times and we were not a consistent passing team. One of the ways we may get better is through good health. Chadwick has excellent ability, as does Thompson."

The other key receivers are Carl Bland, who caught 44 passes last year as Nichols' replacement, and Pete Mandley, an explosive end who doubles as a punt returner.

Rogers must choose his starting quarterback from among Hipple, a mobile free spirit; Ferguson, a 15-year pocket passer; and Long, a talented youngster with a powerful arm. "We're going to see how fast Long develops," says Rogers, "and where he's at by the time the season starts. So one question is the health of Hipple, who had arthroscopic elbow surgery, and the other is how fast we can get a rookie ready. Ferguson's not over the hill by any means, so the development at quarterback should be interesting." Long, of course, is no longer a rookie. But he isn't a grizzled veteran, either.

The backfield combination of Garry James (688 yards, three TDs) and fullback Jones (903 rushing yards, 54 catches, nine TDs) had an impressive season. Rogers says both could top 1000 yards, but the Lions could use more running depth.

Upfront, the Lions are stronger than most clubs, with a line that includes Lomas Brown and Strenger at tackles; veterans Harvey Salem, an ex-Houston Oiler, and Keith Dorney at guards; and Mott at center. "There were games last season when this group was just awesome," says Rogers. "Brown and Dorney are right up there with the best offensive linemen in the league." Brown allowed only three sacks last year. The Lions will go to camp with eight line holdovers weighing in at 277 pounds or more, the biggest group they've ever had.

Giles enters his 11th season at tight end. He beat out former No. 1 pick David Lewis last year and probably will win the job again. Giles stretched opposing zones, opening up the passing game for Chadwick, Thompson and the other wide-outs.

The Lions' defense forced 41 turnovers but gave up too many rushing yards (146.8 a game), and didn't get to the passer often enough (41 times). They need more big-play people, especially upfront and at linebacker. Rogers will be an immediate starter at end. Ball may join him at tackle. Nose tackle Eric Williams had four sacks. Keith Ferguson had nine and a half sacks as an outside down lineman, and weak-side linebacker Cofer added seven and a half more. The Lions need another speed rusher like Rogers, and they need better linebacking, especially backers who can fill holes and shut down the run. There were too many linebackers who either were injured (Angelo King, Jimmy Williams, George Jamison) or not consistent (James Johnson, James Harrell, Vernon Maxwell).

Devon Mitchell, a rookie last year, stole the free safety job and had five interceptions and 70 tackles. Cornerback Duane Galloway, a 5-8 hitter, filled in for injured Bobby Watkins and wasn't bad. Demetrious Johnson, the strong safety, had 112 tackles. But at 5-11 and 190, he isn't as big as some teams want their strong safeties to be. Rogers has been looking at every safety prospect, including Rod Hill, James Griffin and Donnie Elder, and likes cornerback Garland Rivers, a fourth-round draft pick from Michigan. Rogers' search is an indication that the unit needs vast improvement if the Lions are to move up.

Kicker Eddie Murray was 18 for 25 in field goals last year, missing three 50-yarders, but is considered a solid, dependable performer. He ended the season with eight straight. Punter Jim Arnold, who replaced Mike Black at midseason, averaged 42.6 yards.

Entering Rogers' third season, the Lions have far more questions than answers.

END

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(St. Louis continued)

see a future in the Army, so he chose The Citadel, where, again, he had to wait until his senior season to become a starter.

"Everybody all my life has told me that I'm too small," he says. "But it taught me to have patience with myself. It taught me to be more comfortable as a backup player."

Because Mitchell also returned kicks in college, he finished with 4,062 total yards in four seasons. He rushed for 1,647 yards as a senior, which was second in the nation behind South Carolina's George Rogers, the Heisman Trophy winner in 1980.

But on the day that Rogers was the first player drafted by the NFL, Mitchell lasted until the ninth round. Again, it didn't surprise him.

"It just taught me to roll with the punches," he says. "I never thought I'd be able to take O.J.'s place. But now I guess I'd better learn to take advantage of it."

With Mitchell at halfback and Earl Ferrell (548 rushing yards, 56 catches for 434 yards) at fullback, the Cardinals' running game is set. But there is plenty of work to do in the passing game where Neil Lomax is being pushed by Cliff Stoudt, signed last year from the USFL.

Stoudt started two games and was the hero in a second-half comeback victory over Philadelphia. Cardinals coaches consider Stoudt more assertive than Lomax.

"Neil can still throw the ball," Shofner says. "He's just not as mobile as he used to be."

Observers say Lomax misses ex-offensive coordinator Rod Dowhower, who left the Cardinals for Indianapolis and has since moved to Atlanta. When the chips have been down, Lomax hasn't responded well, even though he did finish the final five games with a 2-2-1 record.

Sadly, wide receiver Pat Tilley's career may be over. Doctors are not expected to clear him to play again because of a back injury. He had 468 career receptions, 12 behind Jackie Smith's club record.

The Cardinals did get a break in signing J.T. Smith, a free agent after being cut by Kansas City. All Smith did was catch 80 passes, third in the NFC. While Roy Green (42 catches for 517 yards) was on the injured reserve, Smith, who gained 1,014 yards on his receptions and scored six touchdowns, was the only experienced wide receiver among four free agents.

Green had surgery against team doctors' orders early in the season to remove calcium deposits in his left foot. But he did catch four touchdown passes in the final five games.

On the offensive front are tight end Doug Marsh, tackles Luis Sharpe and Lance Smith, guards Derek Kennard and Joe Bostic and center Randy Clark.

The defense is considered solid by one yardstick, having finished fourth in total yards allowed. But the line rarely pressured the quarterback and the secondary was lacking in interceptions. Cedric Mack led with four.

End Al Baker led the team with 10½ sacks. The Cardinals finished first in yards allowed passing and last in interceptions with only 10.

"I guess we know now how important interceptions are," Stallings says. "When you start getting those big turnovers, you start winning big games."

Ironically, Stallings had coached the NFL's most thieving secondary in Dallas. From 1981 through 1985, the Cowboys led the NFL with 140 interceptions.

The defense should improve with linebacker E.J. Junior returning from injuries. The most consistent defensive player last year was linebacker Niko Noga, who was second on the team with 90 tackles.

Unless changes are made in training camp this summer, other starters on defense will include Bob Clasby at end, nose tackle David Galloway, linebackers Freddie Joe Nunn and Charlie Baker, and Leonard Smith, Lonnie Young and Mack in the secondary.

Kicker John Lee will return from arthroscopic knee surgery, and there are hopes he will fulfill expectations of a second-round draft choice. Lee had trouble adapting to life after the college kicking tee, making only eight of 13 field-goal attempts before he was injured.

The most pleasant surprise was kick returner Vai Sikahema, who returned two punts for touchdowns and had an NFC-leading average of 12.1 yards per return. Another surprise was Ron Wolfley, who was selected to the NFC Pro Bowl team for his work on special teams.

END

The thrust on Cardinals special teams was Ron Wolfley, whose reward was being voted to the NFC Pro Bowl team.

Sure, just the experience of winning an AFC championship and playing in the Super Bowl must have been pretty exciting. But did Karl Mecklenburg ever tell you about the time he started against Northwestern, whose coach once told him he'd never be good enough to play defense in the Big Ten?

On second thought, it's possible that Mecklenburg didn't mention that game against Northwestern because his Minnesota Gophers didn't fare any better against the Wildcats than did the Broncos last January in their Pasadena match with the New York Giants.

Of course, a lot of premed students never even get to meet Northwestern in biology class, over a dead frog. Matter of fact, when the Denver coaches first got a look at Karl a couple of years ago, they were pretty sure he'd never play a down against the Giants, Dwarfs or Trolls.

Mecklenburg plays here (inside linebacker), there (defensive end) and literally everywhere in the Broncos' defense except safety and cornerback.

They checked his genes and learned that Mecklenburg's father was a physician, that his mother had been deputy secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and that his sister had a Ph.D. in psychology.

When Dan Reeves noted that Mecklenburg also scored higher on his IQ test than any other rookie in the NFL, he might well have hired Karl, who has a degree in biology, for special research into unnatural phenomena, like Lawrence Taylor and Jim McMahon.

But then the Broncos apparently delved a little deeper into Mecklenburg's genes and discovered Art Malo.

You see, Mecklenburg's grandfather had been an All-America center for North Dakota in the early 1930s.

That might have been one thing that Reeves discovered. Another thing he noted in the summer of '83 was that a 12th-round draft pick known variously as Snow Goose and the Albino Rhino kept knocking people like Sammy Winder and Rob Lytle on their hip pads.

"Can't anybody block this guy?" the head coach asked. When nobody answered, the Albino Rhino became a Bronco.

Mecklenburg was surprised. So were his parents. Certainly the Northwestern coach who had evaluated Karl's pigskin potential must flinch whenever anybody mentions Denver's innovative "Gopher defense," named after the one-time 230-pound nose tackle from a 3-8 Minnesota team.

Mecklenburg plays here (inside linebacker), there (defensive end) and literally everywhere in the Broncos' defense except safety and cornerback.

At the end of Denver's AFC championship season, Mecklenburg had participated in 127 tackles, had thrown rival quarterbacks for 96 yards in losses on nine and a half sacks, was named to five All-Pro teams and credited with 10 unassisted tackles, two assists and a sack in keying an AFC defense that held the rival NFC without a touchdown in the Honolulu Pro Bowl game.

And he's as happy as a Snow Goose in a blizzard.

"To be a good football player, you have to enjoy the contact," Mecklenburg admits. "That's at least half the game. I don't think my father understood it, but as long as I was knocking people down in the context of football instead of on the street or something, he was happy with that."

Certainly, his varied football skills were apparent to family members at an early age. The only question was whether he could play one position well enough to reach the higher levels of the sport.

In high school he played on a defensive line that shut out seven opposing teams, but he was also an exceptional tight end and such a superb blocker that he was voted Most Valuable Player on the offensive line.

Denver's offensive coordinator, Mike Shanahan, feels that today Karl could possibly play at three offensive positions: tight end, fullback or as a blocking guard.

(continued)

Armed with a degree in biology, Karl Mecklenburg dissects rivals' offenses minutely, then manhandles his subjects.

Broncos defensive end Rulon Jones will have to push to the limit to equal his 1986 season.

(Denver continued)

His scientific background and IQ give him an advantage over rivals in at least one other area.

"When I get down in my stance and see a bug, I can identify it," Mecklenburg quipped during Super Bowl week.

Obviously, that was not Karl's original career goal. When he was growing up, his parents stressed the importance of "serving people, doing socially significant work."

At first Mecklenburg attached minimal importance to the opportunity offered by the Broncos. "I wanted to stick for a year or two and use the money to finance medical school," he says.

His focus is now strictly on football. "The sport isn't necessarily socially significant," he concedes with a smile. "But I can go out and help volunteer organizations. I make contributions to society that way. I've got a platform that most people don't have. If I attach my name to something, then it gets recognized in the Denver area, and that's a real responsibility that I take seriously."

A couple of years ago Mecklenburg started a program known as "For Mercy's Sake, Sack 'Em," with money pledged for every Denver sack and proceeds going to Denver's Mercy Hospital. It continued last year.

From Mecklenburg's remarks, you might get the mistaken impression that Denver residents also take their football seriously. Actually, they attach no more importance to it than their next breath, their next heartbeat, their next can of Coors.

Reeves is responsible for fanning the flames. In four of his six seasons at Denver (including the last three) the Broncos have won at least 10 games. Reeves could run for governor of Colorado and finish second, third and fourth, behind his quarterback.

Sammy Winder led the AFC in TDs with 14.

Despite the Super Bowl loss, the Bronco faithful are pretty much convinced that John Elway could lead Al Davis on a 99-yard march to Pete Rozelle's birthday party.

After all, didn't Elway take his team 98 yards in the closing minutes against the Browns, in the teeth of a freezing Cleveland gale, to give the Broncos the AFC championship and the Super Bowl berth?

During the regular season Elway had his second successive 3,000-yard passing season, he led all quarterbacks in rushing with 257 yards and he even scored once on a 23-yard pass thrown by running back Steve Sewell. Since taking over as the Bronco starter, Elway has led the team to a combined record of 36 wins against 14 losses. In the past three years he has led Denver to more wins than any other NFL quarterback except Miami's Dan Marino. They've both accounted for 32.

Reeves admits that Elway is at the peak of his game. But it was apparent in the Super Bowl and in a couple of losses late in the regular season to Kansas City and Seattle that the Broncos need more offensive balance.

Take away Elway's runs and the Bronco rushers gained only 25 yards against the Giants on 13 carries. They netted only one yard on their first nine carries.

That statistic is not going to be ignored by Denver's rivals this season.

The Broncos hope that part of the solution will be provided by Sewell in support of team rushing leader Winder (789 yards), who led the AFC with 14 touchdowns. Because of a knee injury to Vance Johnson, Sewell was used almost exclusively at wide receiver early last season. The 6-3, 210-pound, third-year back out of Oklahoma then missed five games with a separated shoulder.

If Gene Lang can shake the leg and ankle injuries that limited his contribution, he could also give the Denver rushing attack a boost.

At the Super Bowl, Reeves said he never considered replacing his barefooted placekicker, Rich Karlis, during an erratic campaign. Karlis' overtime kick against Cleveland put the the Broncos into the Super Bowl. But he missed two short field-goal attempts against the Giants and still represents an enigma in the offense, even though he was third in AFC kick scoring with 104 points.

Of course, as long as Elway is healthy, Denver is going to throw the football. And the Broncos return some talented receivers. Veteran Steve Watson's totals have fallen off slightly in the last two years, mainly because the Broncos are also utilizing the services of younger players.

As a rookie, Mark Jackson out of Purdue emerged as the pass-catching yardage leader

with 738 yards, aided by five receptions covering 53, 51, 51, 50 and 47 yards, and he was Elway's end-zone target on that 98-yard march at Cleveland. Johnson rebounded after early-season arthroscopic knee surgery.

The strength of Denver's defensive unit entering the 1987 season is indicated by the fact that Mecklenburg, end Rulon Jones and safety Dennis Smith were all voted as Pro Bowl starters along with offensive guard Keith Bishop. Elway and Winder joined their teammates in backup roles at the Pro Bowl.

One of the pleasant surprises of Denver's AFC championship season was 6-5, 256-pound Orson "Big O" Mobley, a sixth-round pick.

Jones led the team in sack yardage (152) and in passes defensed. He set a Bronco career record with his third safety. The 6-6, 260-pound Jones, once a rodeo rider who now has his own home and ranch outside Denver, was picked on four All-Pro teams and also was named AFC Defensive Player of the Year by UPI.

Cornerback Mike Harden led the team with six interceptions last year and returned them for a club-record 179 yards, including two touchdowns.

Even though Tom Jackson, the NFL's oldest active linebacker at 36, retired, the Broncos retain a wealth of talent surrounding Mecklenburg at the position.

Ricky Hunley led the team with 99 unassisted tackles and 65 assists. Ken Woodard forced three fumbles and scored once on a fumble recovery. Jim Ryan was in on 91 tackles. And Darren Comeaux was named MVP on Denver's special teams.

In his first full season as a Bronco starter, nose tackle Greg Kragen had 60 tackles. End Andre Townsend took part in 70 stops. Free safety Steve Foley had a hand in 92 tackles, and cornerback Louis Wright had 77.

One of the pleasant surprises of Denver's AFC championship season was 6-5, 256-pound Orson "Big O" Mobley, a sixth-round pick from Salem (West Va.) College. The tight end didn't catch a pass until the eighth week of the season but ended up with 22 for 332 yards and a touchdown.

A lot of scouts thought that if Mobley played at all in the NFL it would have to be in the defensive line. The Montreal Expos thought he should play baseball, and they drafted him out of Palmetto High in Miami.

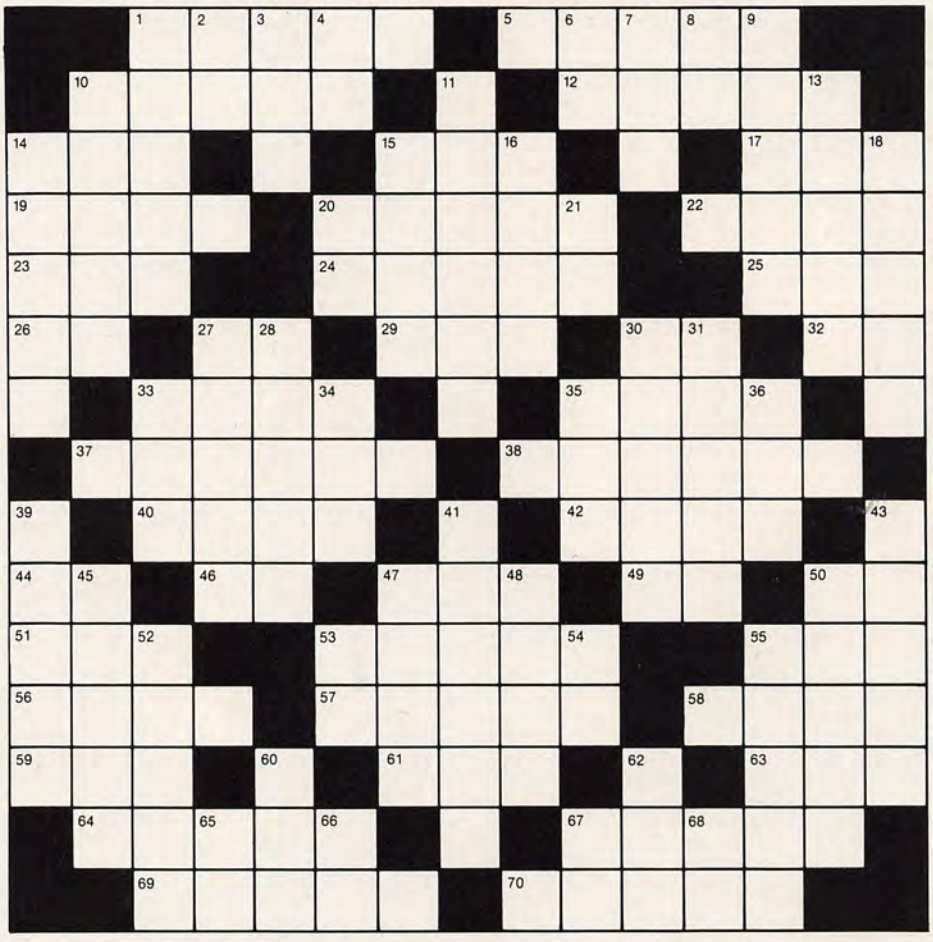
It probably never occurred to anybody, except possibly the Broncos, that somebody should check his genes.

END

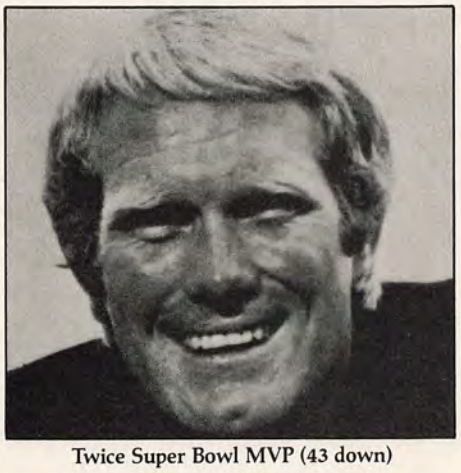
John Elway has already fulfilled his promise but not his dream of a Super Bowl victory.

Puzzling–In So Many Words

Prepared by Football Historian Tim Cohane



First name: George (39 down)



Twice Super Bowl MVP (43 down)

ACROSS

1. Joe Montana
5. Pat passer
10. Coaches seldom _____
12. Chief Al from Grambling
14. What duty delayed Staubach?
15. Meadowlands Carpenter
17. Defensive line deploy
19. Jones is too what?
20. They called him Dub
22. Home to Bengal GM Brown
23. Parker of the football Dodgers, Yanks and Yankees
24. Tough LB Tippett
25. Synonym for Herschel
26. Canton end, later Penn State coach (initials)
27. George of Bears and Rams (initials)
29. Ossified onlooker
30. Where Grange drew 73,000 in '25 (initials)
32. Oiler receiver Smith (initials)
33. Giants' first family
35. Former Card QB standout
37. Broadway Joe
38. Dolphin Dandy
40. In college Kosar was a '____
42. What NFL 1958 title game was after 60 minutes
44. Sacked QBs sometimes don't know where they're __
46. Colt Wisniewski's post (initials)
47. Ted "___ Stork" Hendricks
49. Viking guard Rouse (initials)
50. Wide receiver (or __)
51. What tacklers do chasing "The Ice Cube"
53. Unitas to _____
55. Flies when Redskins meet Cowboys
56. How Nagurski ran
57. Band leader's wand
58. Field goal family
59. Players go here in off-season
61. Bowed to Bears in Superdome (initials)
63. Defensive tactic
64. Raider rocket
67. 1930s 'Skins' QB Smith
69. What Buddy Ryan ain't
70. NFL czar (first name)

DOWN

1. "Greasy"
2. Tough traffic cop (initials)
3. Constantly complaining coach
4. Former
6. Raider ruler
7. Formation
8. Howl of injured player
9. Lane's train
10. Helps receivers
11. BC walk-on; guard for Chiefs in '70s
13. New Orleans pro
14. Vincent's luminary
15. Burton, Knox, Kramer, Waller
16. Ex-commissioner Bell
18. Lions' first coach
20. Viking affirmative
21. Where Cincy's Collinsworth lines up
27. Former Cowboy Lee Roy's background
28. Cool Viking Coach
30. What O.J. created
31. Thespian Rosey
33. Speedie
34. Herman Hickman played and ___ well
35. Helmet
36. Collins who owned football Yanks and managed Kate
39. Papa Bear
41. Michael of 49ers, Rubin of Broncos
43. Steelers' fastest gun
45. Dulled McKay's humor
47. Joe Greene
48. Extinct kick
50. Bear blaster from Nittany
52. Three-pointers
53. Old-time interferer (initials)
54. Jets and Giants, backwards (abbr.)
55. Decoy
60. Hall of Famer Houston of Oilers and 'Skins
62. Tackle
65. Rams and Raiders
66. Joe Nash's spot
67. Eagle SS Ellis, ex-Buckeye (initials)
68. Strong side defensive end (abbr.)

Solution to crossword puzzle on page 200

It takes 400,000,000 years to make a Bourbon as good as Old Grand-Dad.

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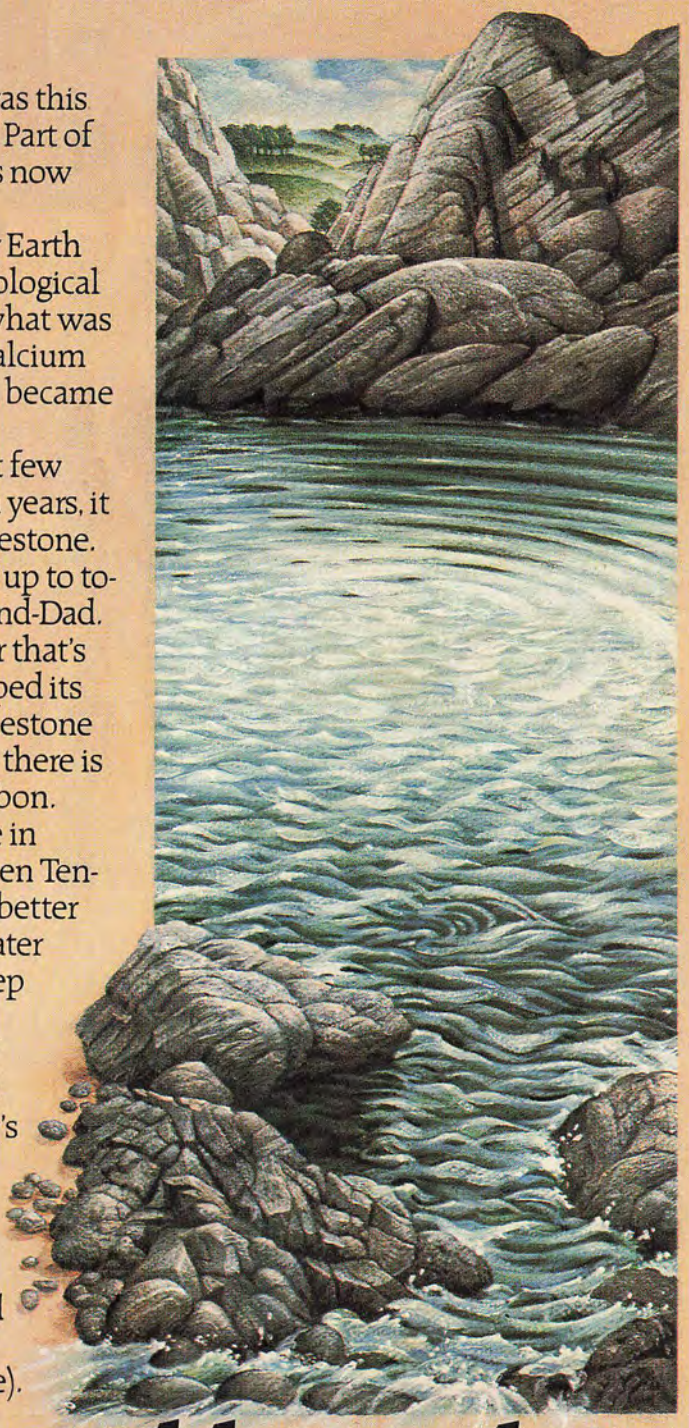

That's not to say you can't make a tolerable Bourbon if you're extra particular about the quality of the grains you use, like we are. You also have to make sure your new white-oak barrels are charred just so, like we do. And it certainly helps if your Bourbon-making skills have passed down through generations, like ours have.

But without our homegrown limestone water, you'll never ever match the choice, mellow taste that makes Old Grand-Dad the undisputed head of the Bourbon family.

Old Grand-Dad

HEAD OF THE BOURBON FAMILY

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Sewell flunks a Giant-sized problem: Taylor (56), Banks (58), Reasons (55), Martin (75), Patterson (34) and Hill (48).

How the Giants Exorcised Ghosts of Seasons Past

by Bill Lyon

What Super Bowl XXI would come down to in the end, all the assayers and analysts and essayists had assured us, was that QB with the surfer hair. You could debate endlessly Orange Crush versus Lawrence of the Meadowlands and all of the other esoterica, but what would finally resolve the game for the professional football championship of the planet would be the guy with the spun gold mane under his helmet, that hose of a passing arm and the crapshooter's number on his jersey.

And you know what? They were absolutely right, all those soothsayers. They nailed the scenario. Right between the numbers. Yes sir, Super 21, waged in the blinking sunshine and sedating warmth of Southern California, and witnessed by 101,063 in the Rose Bowl, was, in fact, settled for the most part by a swaggering gunner who pumped pass after pass through a bewildered, reaching defense.

There was just one slight catch in all the predictions.

They had the wrong quarterback.

It wasn't John Elway, No. 7.

It was Phil Simms, No. 11.

In the afterglow of what had become another Giants won-it-going-away triumph, after his carnivores had swallowed the Denver Broncos 39-20, Bill Parcells, the plump, pleasant, rumpled coach, reflected, "Hey, that might be the best game a quarterback ever played." Pause. "Hey, I don't just mean for a Super Bowl. I mean, that is as good as any quarterback anywhere, any time, ever played."

Hey, he may be right.

"Technically," suggested Ron Erhardt, the Giants' offensive coordinator, "that's as close to a perfect game as I've seen a quarterback have."

Assayers and analysts and essayists are forever fond of ferreting out what they lovingly call "the turning point" of a game. No contest is officially complete without one: that one, single meaningful moment when, upon reflection, they can agree the game swung toward an inexorable, irrevocable decision.

There is some disagreement about the precise moment the turning point of Super Bowl XXI occurred, but the consensus is that it was easily the earliest turning point in history—well before the kickoff, in fact.

Some suggest the game was decided on the Friday before, 48 hours before the game itself was played. It was the last full-bore practice and Phil Simms was aflame. Everything he threw was a tight, sweet spiral, dead-on. "It scared me," he admitted. "I couldn't miss. You want to save those days for the game."

Bart Oates, the Giants' thoughtful, reflective center, remembers on that Friday that he regarded this man who had been hunkering down behind him for the past two seasons

(continued)

(Super Bowl continued)

with a certain measure of awe and disbelief, as though someone else, or something, was inhabiting Phil Simms' body. "Phil had this strange sort of glow about him," Oates said.

In trying to arrive at the official turning point, others have cast a vote for five hours before the start of the game. That was the time when, as has become their ritual when playing on the road, Simms and two of his protectors, left tackle Brad Benson and right guard Chris Godfrey, shared a car together to the stadium. (The Giants lead the entire NFL, by a wide margin, in superstitions, talismans, charms and ceremonies to inspire favorable fortunes.)

"My stomach was flopping like a fish out of water," Godfrey remembers. "But Phil just sat there, looking so, uh, so serene. It was like he knew what was gonna happen." Benson recalls: "I was so psyched I was shaking and I asked Phil if he was nervous, and he just smiled this calm smile and said, 'Not nervous, exactly. Excited. Ready. I feel really good, guys. I feel great. You give me some time today and we're gonna rip 'em. I just got this feeling.' "

The final vote for official turning point is cast by Phil Simms himself, and he says he had had a suspicion all week that this was going to be his day and that it was confirmed during the pregame warm-ups. He came out, picked up the first ball, flipped it casually, and knew instantly that he was "zoned," enveloped in that magical, mystical cocoon athletes talk so reverently about. It is a time when all of their instincts and reflexes are grooved, and they can do nothing wrong. Every shot is a swish, every pass a completion, every putt carves the heart out of the hole.

For the biggest game of his life, Phil Simms was going to be "on."

And he knew it and he could hardly contain himself.

"From the time I got off the plane, I had this feeling," he said. "The sun felt good, the ball felt good. Everything was warm. And dry. Don't get me wrong, I love where we play our home games, and I became accustomed to throwing in the cold and the wind. But the conditions for passing in California were just perfect. I could grip the ball any way I wanted. My hands felt bigger, the ball felt smaller. I felt like I could make it do anything I wanted. In the warm-ups I coasted. I felt so good—my rhythm, my timing, my touch, everything—that I was afraid I'd mess it all up if I did much. So I didn't even drop back while we were loosening. I knew, I just knew, that I was going to be popping some fastballs."

And so he did. He had the heater. And the nasty slider. And the curve that just exploded. And the scroogie, low and away. He painted the corners all afternoon, and if all this is beginning to sound like the wrong sport, well, the last time a professional athlete threw a ball so well so consistently for so sustained a period and in such a big game, it was a pitcher. Remember the fifth game of the 1956 World Series? Don Larsen and The Perfect Game?

Phil Simms was close to that. He went 22 for 25.

The Giants' very first series, he was 6 for 6, spread out among five different receivers.

He was 12 for 15 the first half—and then he got better.

In the second half, he reached the numerical standard we have come to associate with perfection: 10. He threw 10, he completed 10.

He threw outs and curls and come-backs; he threw go-longs and flares and crossing patterns; he even threw a flea-flicker. He threw sidearm and he threw three-quarters and he threw right over the top.

What he didn't throw was anything bad.

"Really," Simms confessed, "I didn't have a ball all day that I wanted back."

He laughed. He couldn't help himself. It had been so easy, so ridiculously easy. He was so "on" that even mistakes turned out right.

"On that flea-flicker, I didn't even hit the right guy, and it worked anyway," he said. "Bobby (Johnson) was the main man. But Phil (McConkey) came open first. Wide open."

And even the almost-mistakes turned out to be winners. One time, Simms cranked a hisser to Mark Bavaro in the end zone, but it had so much velocity that it ricocheted off the tight end. McConkey was there to snag the deflection. For a touchdown, of course.

But Super Bowl XXI wasn't a passing orgy. Phil Simms had a fantasy game, the best percentage passing day not only in Super Bowl history but in any NFL playoff game ever, and yet you never had the sense that he was throwing a lot, that the Giants were one-dimensional. Indeed, they ran the ball 13 more times than they threw it. It's just that Simms hardly ever missed, and when he wasn't completing a pass for a touchdown (he had three) he was completing one that set up a touchdown or running the Giants into scoring position.

Phil Simms: near flawless in Super Bowl.

The Super Bowl is hardly ever a passer's game. The name most often called up is Joe Namath, but it is his mouth more than his arm that is recalled. Before Simms, the passing most people remember from the Supes is Pittsburgh's Terry Bradshaw flinging one deep and Lynn Swann, Bambi-like, leaping into the gathering dusk to snag it. But there were no spectacular catches by the Giants, largely because Simms was there, *right there,* with everything.

Well, almost everything. For trivia collectors, these were his three incompletions: (1) post pattern to McConkey, which would have been six except McConkey fell; (2) sideline out to Stacy Robinson, which Simms hurried; (3) down the middle to Bavaro, which Simms overthrew.

Other than that, folks, everything else was good. Those 22 completions added up to 268 yards. But more importantly, they thoroughly befuddled Denver's sturdy defense, kept it off balance. The Broncos admitted later that they were fired up to blunt the running thrusts of Joe Morris. So the Giants had 12 first-down possessions the first half and threw on nine of them, and Simms completed all nine. That, along with the 77-degree heat, began to wear on the Broncos.

"They changed their whole offensive philosophy," said Karl Mecklenburg, the Broncos' play-everywhere linebacker. "And it surprised us. Pass first, run second. We thought for sure they would try to establish the running game. But they went against their tendencies."

That in itself was probably enough to ensure victory for the Giants, because the Super Bowl tends to be such a conservatively played game. Totally predictable. Also boring. Actually, Super Bowl XXI didn't get out of hand until the third quarter, and it might have been competitive longer than that except the Broncos couldn't cash in on a first-and-goal bonanza in the first half. Plus, they missed two chip-shot field goals. They were up at the break 10-9, but it should have been 20-9. Would that have been enough to change the outcome? The consensus is that it wouldn't because this was the Giants' year. Undisputably, undeniably, overwhelmingly.

As the season had rolled on and the Giants had kept on winning with more and more authority, conviction and confidence, they had come to be compared to the year's previous dynasty, the Chicago Bears. The similarities

(continued)

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(Super Bowl continued)

were many: The Giants consumed their opponents with the same voracious style of defense as the Bears, the Giants depended on the efficiency and stamina of a single running back (the runtish Morris) as the Bears relied on Walter Payton, and the Giants had a down-the-field passer (Simms) who seemed to have developed at last into a leader everyone would confidently follow, just as the Bears had rallied 'round Jim McMahon.

The Bears had lost only once in their Super Bowl season. The Giants would lose only twice in theirs. The last time was way back in October, when the New York Mets were winning the World Series. The Giants closed with 12 straight wins. Twelve in a row in the NFL is not the same as 12 in a row in baseball. In the playoffs they were unstoppable. They went up against San Francisco, Washington and Denver—not a lightweight in the bunch—and they ran up 105 points while yielding only 23.

And yet as impressive as the Giants were, all the way to Pasadena this feeling lingered among many observers that somehow, while the Giants looked like the team to beat, even though they had this aura about them, well . . .

"What they figured," said linebacker Harry Carson, "was that the Giants would find a way to lose. Well, we got sick and tired of hearing about that, reading about that, about people saying it had been 23 years since the Giants had played for a championship. We got guys who were hardly born then. It wasn't our fault."

The Giants are, indeed, a young team, with 38 members of their 45-man roster still in their 20s. But, as Carson suggested, for a long time what people have associated with the Giants is that they play out there by the Jersey Turnpike, where it smells bad and looks like a toxic waste dump, and every time their followers get their hopes up, the Giants put another head fake on them. But these Giants, as Carson also suggested, were different. They were merciless body punchers, digging at you, mauling, going for the kidneys. They played defense like the Steelers of the '70s, keyed by savage, intelligent linebackers, and their offense, with its emphasis on simplicity and execution, reminded you of the Packers in their dynasty days. The Giants' running offense consists basically of two plays: Morris on a delay and Morris on a sweep. Predictable, and yet no one has yet satisfactorily stopped both for 60 minutes.

Early in the season, until Morris got his running legs, the linebackers led the Giants. And Simms, too. But all the ink was going to the defense and its leader.

Lawrence Taylor was acclaimed the league's Most Valuable Player. No one dared argue the point. Leading the NFL in sacks with 20½, L.T. played in a gathering rage and talked of what he called "kill hits." Kill hits? "Yeah," said Taylor, "that's when you hit the quarterback so hard that he's out there quivering on the ground, and stuff's coming out of his nose."

Oh.

On the evolutionary scale of linebacking, Lawrence of the Meadowlands has, as his ancestors, Ray Nitschke, Dick Butkus and Jack Lambert, those ferocious, fang-toothed knuckle-draggers who roamed the middle, pillaging and destroying. But Taylor has not only changed the way linebacker is played, he has changed the way football is played. Whole game plans are altered just to accommodate him. Says John Madden: "He is the most dominant defensive player I've ever seen. You can't run away from him and you can't block him. He changes your whole approach to the game. He intimidates just by sheer force."

Taylor had a good Super Bowl. Good, but not scary. Simms was the one who was scary. All the Giants played well, but in their biggest game, in the one that exorcised all the ghosts, purged them of all the demons, absolved them of all the transgressions for which they were not responsible but were blamed for nonetheless, it was their quarterback who delivered them. In the process, Simms was delivered from his own particular personal purgatory, so maybe what Super Bowl XXI was, was poetic justice.

They had begun booing Phil Simms the day the Giants drafted him, out of that noted quarterback factory, Morehead State. (He is only the second player from the Kentucky school to make it to the NFL.) That was eight years ago. He spent most of the intervening time either on injured reserve or listening to a vitriolic chorus accusing him of losing the big games. His critics were convinced that he would always go belly-up in the crucial game, short-arm the decisive pass or gun an interception at the most inopportune moment.

But Simms stood in there, took his beatings and persevered. The Giants had a running game in which everyone in the stadium knew what was coming and a cast of receivers that didn't exactly sweep the Pro Bowl voting, so as the 1986 season unfurled and the Giants continued to steamroller everyone, it began to dawn on people that the QB must be having a hellacious year. Nah, answered the critics. If the Giants don't win it all, it'll be the QB's fault. And if they do win it all, it'll be in spite of him.

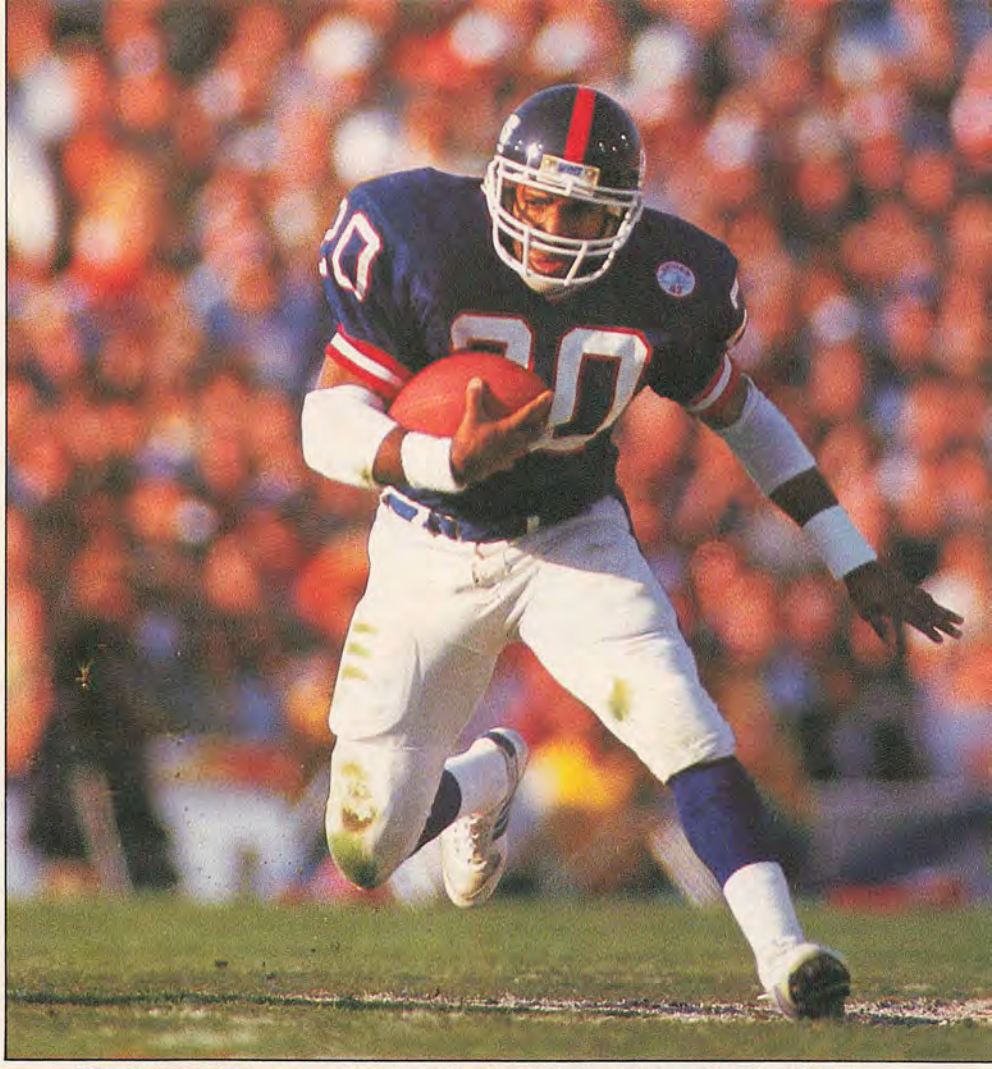
That's your basic no-win situation. The only way out is to have a game for the books.

Which, of course, is what Phil Simms did.

So, with the game well in hand, before their traditional Gatorade shower of their coach, Benson and Oates crept up behind their quarterback, the MVP of Super Bowl XXI, and emptied a yellow tub of ice water on him.

"I swear to you, there was steam," Oates said. "That's how hot Phil was."

END



Sawed-off Joe Morris gives the Giants the breakaway back every coach dreams of having.

KANSAS CITY

Frank Gansz, a former Air Force jet jockey and commercial airline pilot, is the new coach of the Kansas City Chiefs. Gansz sees a lot of similarities between football and flying.

"Football is a high-performance business," Gansz says. "It's a game of conflict, of passion, of intensity. It's like flying formation. You have to think ahead, you have to plan, you have to concentrate, you have to believe in the other guys. There is an esprit de corps in football and flying that you just can't find in other places."

Gansz was named commanding general of the Chiefs shortly after they were gunned down by the New York Jets in a wild-card playoff game last December. When Gansz glances to one side, while soaring into the 1987 season in the NFL, he will glimpse a reassuring sight. Flying in close formation, closely guarding his leader's rear, will be the Red Baron.

"I looked at some of the defensive backs Kansas City had drafted, and I said, 'Hey, where have I been? There's something wrong with the system.'"

Free safety Deron Cherry has earned the comparison to the World War I flying ace. Defensive excellence gave the Chiefs their best record in 15 years. The Kansas City secondary is considered by many to be the best in professional football. And Cherry has consistently been the main mastiff in the aerial dogfight the Chiefs have waged with such success.

Nobody recognizes the fact better than Gansz, who served former Coach John Mackovic last year as assistant head coach in charge of special teams. Under Gansz's emotional direction, the Chiefs blocked or deflected 10 kicks, scoring five touchdowns. Cherry was credited with two touchdowns after crash landing on blocked punts in the end zone.

Yet Cherry arrived in K.C. in 1981 as a free-agent punter with marginal skills. He survived one squad cut, a position switch and two seasons in backup roles, and has since completed four consecutive Pro Bowl seasons.

Last year Cherry intercepted a career-high nine passes, first in the AFC. He finished second on the team to linebacker Dino Hackett with 108 tackles. He has been credited with 30 interceptions over the past four years, best in the NFL.

And when the current campaign begins he'll once again be lurking in the clouds, ready to swoop down on unsuspecting receivers with guns blazing. The Red Baron didn't arrive in Kansas City to pose for pizza boxes.

"I can remember when I first came into the Chiefs' camp, as a punter," Cherry says. "I looked at some of the defensive backs Kansas City had drafted, and I said, 'Hey, where have I been? There's something wrong with the system.'

"I realized then that the system doesn't measure what is inside a player. You can't measure the size of a heart on a test score or in a 40-yard dash. But it didn't bother me. I figured it was a stepping stone I could use to improve my own position. I have a tendency to believe now that there are a lot of great players who get overlooked but have just as much talent as the highly publicized players drafted out of schools like UCLA, USC or Notre Dame."

And, of course, Cherry, a Rutgers alumnus, is his own most convincing exhibit. He asked to be switched to safety at that first Kansas City camp and survived until the last squad cut. He got a second chance when injuries forced the Chiefs to make roster moves, and in 1983 he moved into the spot vacated when Gary Barbaro went to the United States Football League.

Cherry, having made his mark, is now more concerned with the Chiefs' success.

"There was a great deal of frustration last year," he says. "Mackovic was an offensive-minded coach who was supposed to have an exciting, explosive attack. When it didn't happen, players got down on themselves.

"Fortunately, the guys on our defensive team don't bicker much. We like to be on the field. We like to be challenged. Last season was definitely a rewarding one for me. We had a winning team and made it into the playoffs. Now we know what it takes to get there and can concentrate on even higher goals.

(continued)

Intercepting (passes and people) is a habit with the Chiefs' Deron Cherry (20), who has 30 steals in just the last four seasons.

JETS
48
HUMPHERY
48
CHIEFS

Chiefs linebacker Tim Cofield has a feel for forcing fumbles; this (by Buford McGee of the Chargers) was one of four.

(Kansas City continued)

"I'm already excited. Each year brings a new challenge. I look back and can see plays that I could have made a year ago if I'd been in the right place at the right time. There is lots of room for improvement. I'm critical of myself because I want to be the very best. The key to this game, the way I see it, is to play with the utmost consistency. That's what I try to do."

Cherry acquired that philosophy at an early age, and he dedicated last season to the man he gives credit for it, the late Osa Meekins, who coached Deron's peewee football team back in Palmyra, N.J.

"I learned from him the most important lesson of my life: Never give up," Cherry says. "I was 9 years old and our team was getting killed in the first half. At halftime we got on the bus and we all had our heads down. We knew he was going to really blast us.

"He didn't yell at us for playing so poorly. He yelled at us for having our heads down. He told us we weren't quitters, that we weren't losers. He told us if we were going to make anything of ourselves, we needed to make something happen in the tough times.

"I can still see him giving that speech. I can still hear those words. Over the years there have been many times when that moment pushed me on. At the age of 9, I learned a lesson for life."

"I'm critical of myself because I want to be the very best. The key. . . is to play with the utmost consistency."

Since that day, Cherry has been an astute and intense student, not only of football games but also of football coaches. And now he has a new one.

Even before Gansz was given command of the Chiefs, the unit that Cherry led, which also includes strong safety Lloyd Burruss and cornerbacks Albert Lewis and Kevin Ross, had been nicknamed The Interceptors. Cherry is charged with calling the defensive signals.

"I think Kevin, myself and Lloyd are like control cops out there," Lewis says. "Deron is our switchboard operator. Without him we wouldn't know where the crimes are occurring."

"There are no ego problems," says Cherry. "There is not a selfish person in our secondary. That makes a big difference, because we all get along and we all relate to one another. We've formed a bond and it's strong."

It sure is. Kansas City led the AFC last year with 31 interceptions and 49 takeaways for a turnover ratio of plus 14. Burruss and nose tackle Bill Maas joined Cherry on the Pro Bowl squad. Lewis and defensive end Art Still were Pro Bowl alternates, and Hackett emerged as one of the top defensive rookies in the league.

Defensive end Mike Bell was reinstated in the NFL in March. He had been convicted on federal felony drug charges.

Pete Koch made 81 tackles at right end, while linebackers Tim Cofield, Scott Radecic and Louis Cooper had 66, 57 and 54 respectively. Gary Spani won back his starting spot at linebacker for the last three regular-season games but must recover from off-season back surgery. Spani now has 999 career tackles.

"But we need to upgrade everything, including special teams," says Gansz. "There is not one area where we can't get better."

(continued on page 181)

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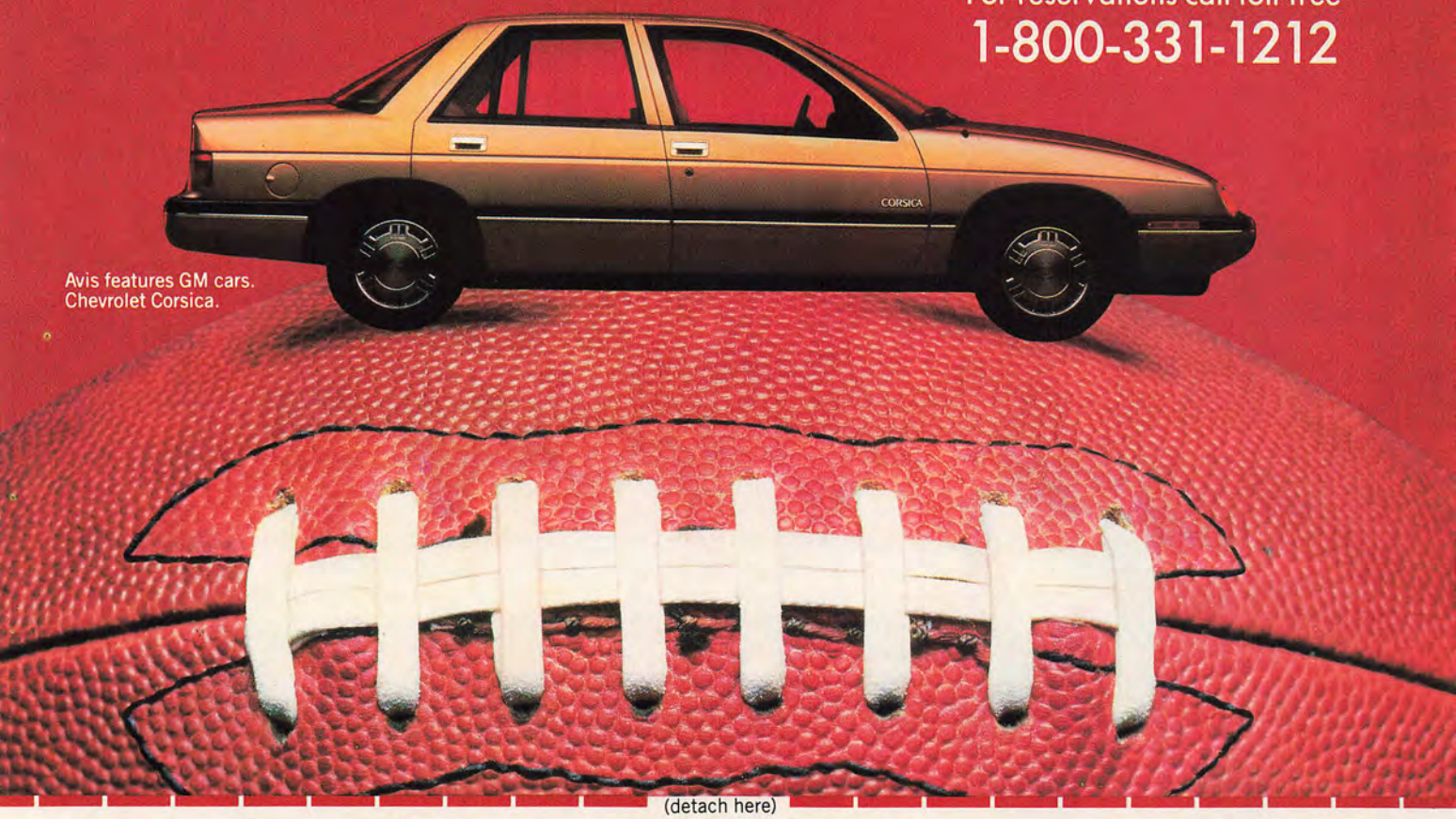

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SEA

Bobby Joe Edmonds was a star long before he arrived in Seattle. But nobody recognized him right-side-up. And everybody thought his name was "Ohmygawd Diduseedat!"

That's what football fans exclaimed when they caught his act on television.

Edmonds was the anonymous football player who executed a full flip and a half gainer after being blindsided in an Arkansas-SMU football game. His midair gymnastics were so spectacular that ESPN repeatedly used a film clip of the feat as a lead-in to the cable network's college football telecasts.

Edmonds isn't getting residuals. But he is nevertheless an established media star.

His Seahawk teammates didn't understand that initially. They stood with mouths agape before Seattle's opening game last fall when the rookie from Arkansas emerged from the team's hotel and stepped into the limousine he had booked for his solo journey to the Kingdome.

"I bounced right back up," Edmonds says of that first and much-televised smashup. "When I knew I still had my teeth, I was all right."

The veterans left standing on the curb looked at each other with astonished expressions.

"Ohmygawd Diduseedat?"

The Pittsburgh Steelers were similarly surprised when Edmonds returned four punts for a team-record 101 yards in a 30-0 Seattle victory. He also shocked Philadelphia with a 75-yard touchdown runback. The Seahawks won that one 24-20.

Edmonds enters his second pro campaign as a marked man. He's the defending NFL punt-return leader (34 for 419 yards) and the most productive punt returner in Seahawk history with a team-record 12.3-yard average. Matter of fact, after the fifth or sixth game last year, rival kickers and coaches were attempting to neutralize Edmonds in a dozen different ways. A hit delivered by Dallas linebacker Garth Jax came closest to achieving that goal.

But Edmonds knows where all the soft spots are on the Texas Stadium turf. He survived that collision just as he had that earlier one on the same field.

"I bounced right back up," Edmonds says of that first and much-televised smashup. "When I knew I still had my teeth, I was all right."

Seahawk coaches knew when they drafted Edmonds in the fifth round that he was blessed with sprinter's speed and sure hands. Now they have added durability and split-second judgment to his list of qualifications.

These assets produced 1,183 yards on punt and kickoff returns, and Coach Chuck Knox credits Edmonds with a major assist on the four punts the Seahawks blocked last year.

"Only one guy can throw off a kicking team's timing: the great punt returner on the other side," Knox explains. "Edmonds can move quickly in any direction. Nothing makes a kicking team more nervous than that. They get a little lax with their protection when there's an Edmonds back there. They get a little too anxious to get down the field."

From the first day of his first Seahawk camp Edmonds was listed No. 1 at his special team position. Nobody had earned a job that quickly since running back Curt Warner arrived in Seattle in 1983.

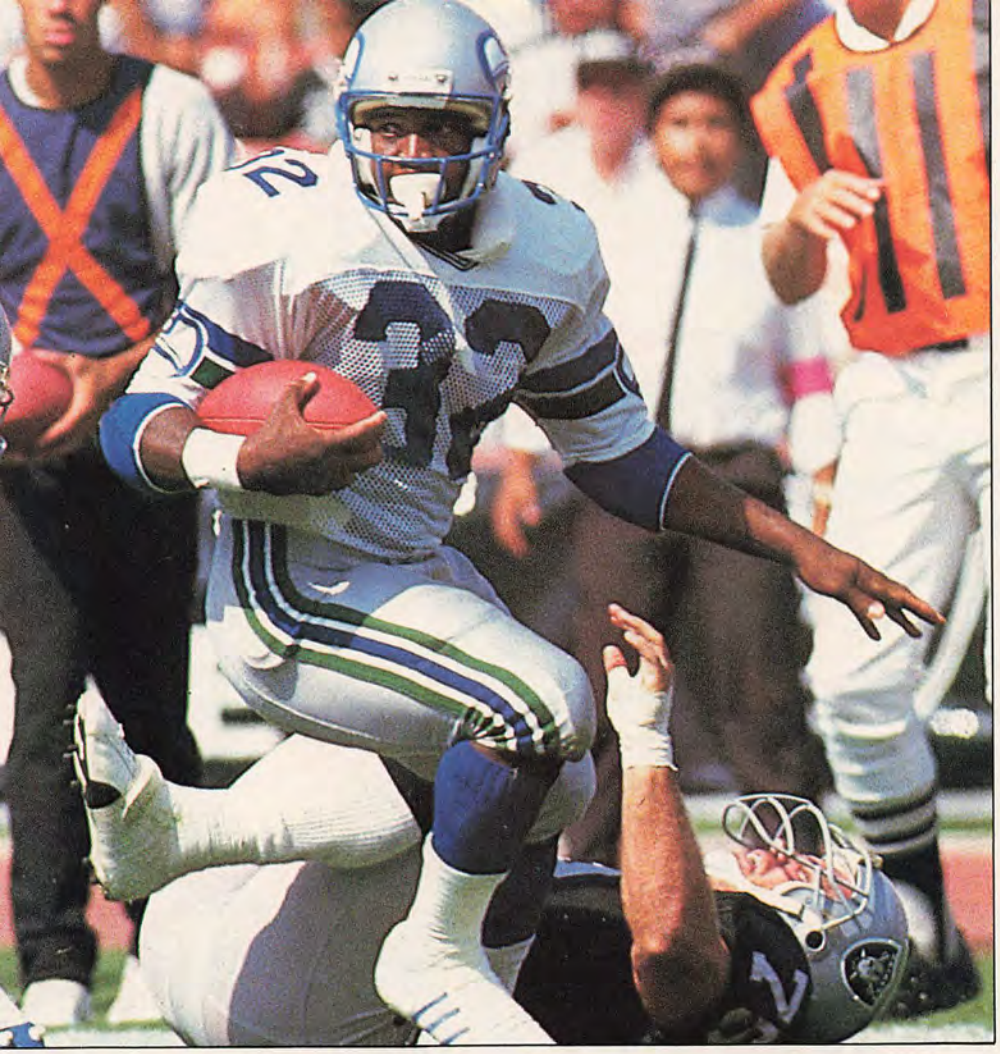
"I'm happy with my position," Edmonds says. "As a return man I have just as much impact on the offense as if I were in the backfield. I'm content. But I think I've been blessed to do a lot of things."

That's indisputable. Edmonds caught 31 passes as a junior wide receiver at Arkansas and set a Liberty Bowl record with 10 receptions against Auburn. The next year the Razorbacks used him as a halfback in their revamped wishbone offense, and he struggled through the season. But the day he finished his college career, he was named Most Valuable Player in the Holiday Bowl after leading Arkansas to an 18-17 victory over Arizona State.

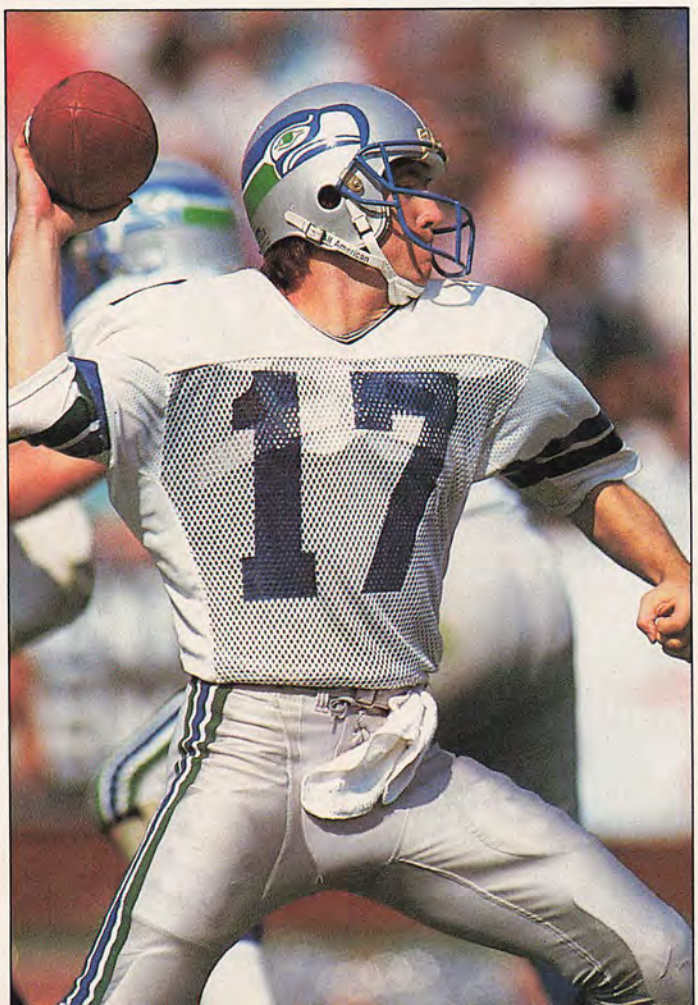
When Seahawk special teams coach Rusty Tillman traveled to Arkansas for a

(continued)

Bobby Joe Edmonds' rookie season was an eye-popper: All-Pro, Pro Bowl, best punt-return average.



Extending the Seahawks' five-game 1986-ending win streak runs through the minds of fullback John L. Williams (above) and quarterback Dave Krieg.



(Seattle continued)

closer look, he had to catch Edmonds on the way to a baseball game. Edmonds was drafted as a pro baseball prospect by the St. Louis Cardinals.

When he was growing up, he basked in reflections cast by his father, a former National Basketball Association player, and his cousin, the late rock star Jimi Hendrix.

Limos are apparently listed as basic transportation in that remarkable family.

"Some players drive flashy cars," Tillman says. "A guy with real class takes a limo. Bobby Joe has a vision of himself. He burns to be the best."

Edmonds' mother died when he was 12. He was raised in St. Louis by his grandmother, Canary Hendrix. Shortly after Bobby Joe's senior season at Arkansas, the grandmother he called Bird was killed in an automobile accident.

"Ever since I was a kid, I wanted to be a success so I could do things for her," says Edmonds. "I wanted to make her life complete. Football isn't as much fun now because I don't have her to share it with."

But if a spark of desire has been removed from his game, it isn't evident to teammates or opponents.

The addition of a punt-return specialist was high on Knox's wish list a year ago. But his most demanding need was a fullback who could create some running room for Warner.

Fullback John L. Williams, like Edmonds, is entering his second NFL season with a well-earned reputation. With Williams' outstanding blocking assistance, Warner led the AFC in rushing. His 1,481 yards and 4.6-yard average gave him a 394-yard cushion over James Brooks of Cincinnati.

Warner carried the ball for 192 yards in a 41-16 win over Denver and on six other occasions gained over 100 yards.

"John L.'s block is usually the one that springs me," Warner says. "It's like the last chess move."

"When John L. is blocking one on one, there is no way he can be beat," says defensive end Alonzo Mitz, Williams' teammate at Florida.

Almost as impressive are Williams' ball-carrying abilities as a power fullback. He gained 538 yards in his rookie year with a 4.2-yard average and a long-gainer of 36 yards.

The offensive line of Ron Mattes and Mike Wilson, tackles; Edwin Bailey and Bryan Millard, guards; and center Will Grant cleared the way for Seattle to rank second in the conference in rushing.

When pro football observers note that the Seahawks' remarkable All-Pro receiver, Steve Largent, set three NFL records during 1986 and that Dave Krieg finished third in the efficiency ratings among all NFL quarterbacks, they wonder how the playoff express left Chuck Knox's team at the station.

The Seahawks won five of their first seven

(continued on page 195)

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1987 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TEAM SCHEDULES

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EAST

Buffalo Bills
S. 13 NEW YORK JETS–1:00
S. 20 HOUSTON–1:00
S. 27 at Dallas–12:00
O. 4 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
O.11 at New England–1:00
O.18 NEW YORK GIANTS–4:00
O.25 at Miami–1:00
N. 1 WASHINGTON–1:00
N. 8 DENVER–1:00
N. 15 at Cleveland–1:00
N. 22 at New York Jets–1:00
N. 29 MIAMI–1:00
D. 6 at L.A. Raiders–1:00
D. 13 at Indianapolis–1:00
D. 20 NEW ENGLAND–1:00
D. 27 at Philadelphia–1:00

Indianapolis Colts
S. 13 CINCINNATI–12:00
S. 20 MIAMI–12:00
S. 27 at St. Louis–12:00
O. 4 at Buffalo–1:00
O.11 NEW YORK JETS–12:00
O.18 at Pittsburgh–1:00
O.25 NEW ENGLAND–1:00
N. 1 at New York Jets–1:00
N. 8 SAN DIEGO–1:00
N. 15 at Miami–1:00
N. 22 at New England–1:00
N. 29 HOUSTON–1:00
D. 6 at Cleveland–1:00
D. 13 BUFFALO–1:00
D. 20 at San Diego–1:00
D. 27 TAMPA BAY–1:00

Miami Dolphins
S. 13 at New England–1:00
S. 20 at Indianapolis–12:00
S. 27 NEW YORK GIANTS–1:00
O. 4 at Seattle–1:00
O.11 KANSAS CITY–1:00
O.18 at New York Jets–1:00
O.25 BUFFALO–1:00
N. 1 PITTSBURGH–1:00
N. 8 at Cincinnati–4:00
N. 15 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
N. 22 at Dallas (night)–7:00
N. 29 at Buffalo–1:00
D. 7 N.Y. JETS (Mon.)–9:00
D. 13 at Philadelphia–1:00
D. 20 WASH. (night)–8:00
D. 28 NEW ENG. (Mon.)–9:00

New England Patriots
S. 13 MIAMI–1:00
S. 21 at N.Y. Jets (Mon.)–9:00
S. 27 at Washington–1:00
O. 4 CLEVELAND–1:00
O.11 BUFFALO–1:00
O.18 at Houston–12:00
O.25 at Indianapolis–1:00
N. 1 L.A. RAIDERS–1:00
N. 8 at N.Y. Giants (night)–8:00
N. 15 DALLAS–1:00
N. 22 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
N. 29 PHILADELPHIA–1:00
D. 6 at Denver–2:00
D. 13 NEW YORK JETS–1:00
D. 20 at Buffalo–1:00
D. 28 at Miami (Mon.)–9:00

New York Jets
S. 13 at Buffalo–1:00
S. 21 NEW ENG. (Mon.)–9:00
S. 27 at Pittsburgh–4:00
O. 4 DALLAS–4:00
O.11 at Indianapolis–12:00
O.18 MIAMI–1:00
O.25 at Washington–1:00
N. 1 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
N. 9 SEATTLE (Mon.)–9:00
N. 15 at Kansas City–12:00
N. 22 BUFFALO–1:00
N. 29 CINCINNATI–1:00
D. 7 at Miami (Mon.)–9:00
D. 13 at New England–1:00
D. 20 PHILADELPHIA–1:00
D. 27 at New York Giants–1:00

CENTRAL

Cincinnati Bengals
S. 13 at Indianapolis–12:00
S. 20 SAN FRANCISCO–1:00
S. 27 at Los Angeles Rams–1:00
O. 4 SAN DIEGO–1:00
O.11 at Seattle–1:00
O.18 CLEVELAND–1:00
O.25 at Pittsburgh–1:00
N. 1 HOUSTON–1:00
N. 8 MIAMI–4:00
N. 15 at Atlanta–4:00
N. 22 PITTSBURGH–1:00
N. 29 at New York Jets–1:00
D. 6 KANSAS CITY–1:00
D. 13 at Cleveland–1:00
D. 20 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
D. 27 at Houston–12:00

Cleveland Browns
S. 13 at New Orleans–12:00
S. 20 PITTSBURGH–1:00
S. 28 DENVER (Mon.)–9:00
O. 4 at New England–1:00
O.11 HOUSTON–1:00
O.18 at Cincinnati–1:00
O.26 L.A. RAMS (Mon.)–9:00
N. 1 at San Diego–1:00
N. 8 ATLANTA–1:00
N. 15 BUFFALO–1:00
N. 22 at Houston–12:00
N. 29 at S.F. (night)–5:00
D. 6 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
D. 13 CINCINNATI–1:00
D. 20 at L.A. Raiders–1:00
D. 26 at Pittsburgh (Sat.)–12:30

Houston Oilers
S. 13 L.A. RAMS–12:00
S. 20 at Buffalo–1:00
S. 27 L.A. RAIDERS–12:00
O. 4 at Denver–2:00
O.11 at Cleveland–1:00
O.18 NEW ENGLAND–12:00
O.25 ATLANTA–12:00
N. 1 at Cincinnati–1:00
N. 8 at San Francisco–1:00
N. 15 at Pittsburgh–1:00
N. 22 CLEVELAND–12:00
N. 29 at Indianapolis–1:00
D. 6 SAN DIEGO–12:00
D. 13 at New Orleans–12:00
D. 20 PITTSBURGH–12:00
D. 27 CINCINNATI–12:00

Pittsburgh Steelers
S. 13 SAN FRANCISCO–1:00
S. 20 at Cleveland–1:00
S. 27 NEW YORK JETS–4:00
O. 4 at Atlanta–1:00
O.11 at Los Angeles Rams–1:00
O.18 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
O.25 CINCINNATI–1:00
N. 1 at Miami–1:00
N. 8 at Kansas City–12:00
N. 15 HOUSTON–1:00
N. 22 at Cincinnati–1:00
N. 29 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
D. 6 SEATTLE–1:00
D. 13 at San Diego–1:00
D. 20 at Houston–12:00
D. 26 CLEVELAND (Sat.)–12:30

WEST

Denver Broncos
S. 13 SEATTLE–2:00
S. 20 vs. G.B. at Milw.–12:00
S. 28 at Cleveland (Mon.)–9:00
O. 4 HOUSTON–2:00
O.12 L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)–7:00
O.18 at Kansas City–3:00
O.25 at Minnesota–12:00
N. 1 DETROIT–2:00
N. 8 at Buffalo–1:00
N. 16 CHICAGO (Mon.)–7:00
N. 22 at L.A. Raiders–1:00
N. 29 at San Diego–1:00
D. 6 NEW ENGLAND–2:00
D. 13 at Seattle (night)–5:00
D. 19 KANSAS CITY (Sat.)–2:00
D. 27 SAN DIEGO–2:00

Kansas City Chiefs
S. 13 SAN DIEGO–12:00
S. 20 at Seattle–1:00
S. 27 MINNESOTA–12:00
O. 4 at L.A. Raiders–1:00
O.11 at Miami–1:00
O.18 DENVER–3:00
O.25 at San Diego–1:00
N. 1 at Chicago–12:00
N. 8 PITTSBURGH–12:00
N. 15 NEW YORK JETS–12:00
N. 22 GREEN BAY–12:00
N. 26 at Detroit (Thanks.)–12:30
D. 6 at Cincinnati–1:00
D. 13 L.A. RAIDERS–3:00
D. 19 at Denver (Sat.)–2:00
D. 27 SEATTLE–12:00

Los Angeles Raiders
S. 13 at Green Bay–3:00
S. 20 DETROIT—1:00
S. 27 at Houston–12:00
O. 4 KANSAS CITY–1:00
O.12 at Denver (Mon.)–7:00
O.18 SAN DIEGO–1:00
O.25 SEATTLE–1:00
N. 1 at New England–1:00
N. 8 at Minnesota–12:00
N. 15 at San Diego (night)–5:00
N. 22 DENVER–1:00
N. 30 at Seattle (Mon.)–6:00
D. 6 BUFFALO–1:00
D. 13 at Kansas City–3:00
D. 20 CLEVELAND–1:00
D. 27 CHICAGO–1:00

San Diego Chargers
S. 13 at Kansas City–12:00
S. 20 ST. LOUIS–1:00
S. 27 SEATTLE–1:00
O. 4 at Cincinnati–1:00
O.11 at Tampa Bay–1:00
O.18 at L.A. Raiders–1:00
O.25 KANSAS CITY–1:00
N. 1 CLEVELAND–1:00
N. 8 at Indianapolis–1:00
N. 15 L.A. RAIDERS (night)–5:00
N. 22 at Seattle–1:00
N. 29 DENVER–1:00
D. 6 at Houston–12:00
D. 13 PITTSBURGH–1:00
D. 20 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
D. 27 at Denver–2:00

Seattle Seahawks
S. 13 at Denver–2:00
S. 20 KANSAS CITY–1:00
S. 27 at San Diego–1:00
O. 4 MIAMI–1:00
O.11 CINCINNATI–1:00
O.18 at Detroit–1:00
O.25 at L.A. Raiders–1:00
N. 1 MINNESOTA–1:00
N. 9 at N.Y. Jets (Mon.)–9:00
N. 15 GREEN BAY–1:00
N. 22 SAN DIEGO–1:00
N. 30 L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)–6:00
D. 6 at Pittsburgh–1:00
D. 13 DENVER (night)–5:00
D. 20 at Chicago–12:00
D. 27 at Kansas City–12:00

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EAST

Dallas Cowboys
S. 13 at St. Louis–12:00
S. 20 at New York Giants–4:00
S. 27 BUFFALO–12:00
O. 4 at New York Jets–4:00
O.11 PHILADELPHIA–12:00
O.19 WASH. (Mon.)–8:00
O.25 at Philadelphia–1:00
N. 2 N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)–8:00
N. 8 at Detroit–1:00
N. 15 at New England–1:00
N. 22 MIAMI (night)–7:00
N. 26 MINN. (Thanks.)–3:00
D. 6 ATLANTA–12:00
D. 13 at Washington–1:00
D. 21 at L.A. Rams (Mon.)–6:00
D. 27 ST. LOUIS–12:00

New York Giants
S. 14 at Chicago (Mon.)–8:00
S. 20 DALLAS–4:00
S. 27 at Miami–1:00
O. 5 S.F. (Mon.)–9:00
O.11 WASHINGTON–4:00
O.18 at Buffalo–4:00
O.25 ST. LOUIS–4:00
N. 2 at Dallas (Mon.)–8:00
N. 8 NEW ENG. (night)–8:00
N. 15 at Philadelphia–4:00
N. 22 at New Orleans–3:00
N. 29 at Washington–4:00
D. 6 PHILADELPHIA–1:00
D. 13 at St. Louis–3:00
D. 19 GREEN BAY (Sat.)–12:30
D. 27 NEW YORK JETS–1:00

Philadelphia Eagles
S. 13 at Washington–1:00
S. 20 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
S. 27 at San Francisco–1:00
O. 4 CHICAGO–1:00
O.11 at Dallas–12:00
O.18 at Green Bay–12:00
O.25 DALLAS–1:00
N. 1 at St. Louis–12:00
N. 8 WASHINGTON–1:00
N. 15 N.Y. GIANTS–4:00
N. 22 ST. LOUIS–1:00
N. 29 at New England–1:00
D. 6 at New York Giants–1:00
D. 13 MIAMI–1:00
D. 20 at New York Jets–1:00
D. 27 BUFFALO–1:00

St. Louis Cardinals
S. 13 DALLAS–12:00
S. 20 at San Diego–1:00
S. 27 INDIANAPOLIS–12:00
O. 4 at Washington–1:00
O.11 NEW ORLEANS–12:00
O.18 at San Francisco–1:00
O.25 at New York Giants–4:00
N. 1 PHILADELPHIA–12:00
N. 8 TAMPA BAY–12:00
N. 15 L.A. RAMS–12:00
N. 22 at Philadelphia–1:00
N. 29 at Atlanta–1:00
D. 6 WASHINGTON–12:00
D. 13 N.Y. GIANTS–3:00
D. 20 at Tampa Bay–4:00
D. 27 at Dallas–12:00

Washington Redskins
S. 13 PHILADELPHIA–1:00
S. 20 at Atlanta–1:00
S. 27 NEW ENGLAND–1:00
O. 4 ST. LOUIS–1:00
O.11 at New York Giants–4:00
O.19 at Dallas (Mon.)–8:00
O.25 NEW YORK JETS–1:00
N. 1 at Buffalo–1:00
N. 8 at Philadelphia–1:00
N. 15 DETROIT–1:00
N. 23 L.A. RAMS (Mon.)–9:00
N. 29 N.Y. GIANTS–4:00
D. 6 at St. Louis–12:00
D. 13 DALLAS–1:00
D. 20 at Miami (night)–8:00
D. 26 at Minnesota (Sat.)–3:00

CENTRAL

Chicago Bears
S. 14 N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)–8:00
S. 20 TAMPA BAY–12:00
S. 27 at Detroit–1:00
O. 4 at Philadelphia–1:00
O.11 MINNESOTA–12:00
O.18 NEW ORLEANS–12:00
O.25 at Tampa Bay–1:00
N. 1 KANSAS CITY–12:00
N. 8 at Green Bay–12:00
N. 16 at Denver (Mon.)–7:00
N. 22 DETROIT–12:00
N. 29 GREEN BAY–12:00
D. 6 at Minnesota (night)–7:00
D. 14 at S.F. (Mon.)–6:00
D. 20 SEATTLE–12:00
D. 27 at L.A. Raiders–1:00

Detroit Lions
S. 13 at Minnesota–12:00
S. 20 at L.A. Raiders–1:00
S. 27 CHICAGO–1:00
O. 4 TAMPA BAY–1:00
O.11 at Green Bay–12:00
O.18 SEATTLE–1:00
O.25 GREEN BAY–1:00
N. 1 at Denver–2:00
N. 8 DALLAS–1:00
N. 15 at Washington–1:00
N. 22 at Chicago–12:00
N. 26 K.C. (Thanks.)–12:30
D. 6 L.A. RAMS–1:00
D. 13 at Tampa Bay–4:00
D. 20 MINNESOTA–1:00
D. 27 at Atlanta–1:00

Green Bay Packers
S. 13 L.A. RAIDERS–3:00
S. 20 DENVER at Milw.–12:00
S. 27 at Tampa Bay–1:00
O. 4 at Minnesota–12:00
O.11 DETROIT–12:00
O.18 PHILADELPHIA–12:00
O.25 at Detroit–1:00
N. 1 TAMPA BAY at Milw.–12:00
N. 8 CHICAGO–12:00
N. 15 at Seattle–1:00
N. 22 at Kansas City–12:00
N. 29 at Chicago–12:00
D. 6 SAN FRANCISCO–12:00
D. 13 MINN. at Milw.–12:00
D. 19 at N.Y. Giants (Sat.)–12:30
D. 27 at New Orleans–12:00

Minnesota Vikings
S. 13 DETROIT–12:00
S. 20 at Los Angeles Rams–1:00
S. 27 at Kansas City–12:00
O. 4 GREEN BAY–12:00
O.11 at Chicago–12:00
O.18 TAMPA BAY–12:00
O.25 DENVER–12:00
N. 1 at Seattle–1:00
N. 8 L.A. RAIDERS–12:00
N. 15 at Tampa Bay–1:00
N. 22 ATLANTA–12:00
N. 26 at Dallas (Thanks.)–3:00
D. 6 CHICAGO (night)–7:00
D. 13 vs. G.B. at Milw.–12:00
D. 20 at Detroit–1:00
D. 26 WASHINGTON (Sat.)–3:00

Tampa Bay Buccaneers
S. 13 ATLANTA–1:00
S. 20 at Chicago–12:00
S. 27 GREEN BAY–1:00
O. 4 at Detroit–1:00
O.11 SAN DIEGO–1:00
O.18 at Minnesota–12:00
O.25 CHICAGO–1:00
N. 1 vs. G.B. at Milw.–12:00
N. 8 at St. Louis–12:00
N. 15 MINNESOTA–1:00
N. 22 SAN FRANCISCO–1:00
N. 29 at Los Angeles Rams–1:00
D. 6 at New Orleans–3:00
D. 13 DETROIT–4:00
D. 20 ST LOUIS–4:00
D. 27 at Indianapolis–1:00

WEST

Atlanta Falcons
S. 13 at Tampa Bay–1:00
S. 20 WASHINGTON–1:00
S. 27 at New Orleans–12:00
O. 4 PITTSBURGH–1:00
O.11 at San Francisco–1:00
O.18 LOS ANGELES RAMS–1:00
O.25 at Houston–12:00
N. 1 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
N. 8 at Cleveland–1:00
N. 15 CINCINNATI–4:00
N. 22 at Minnesota–12:00
N. 29 ST. LOUIS–1:00
D. 6 at Dallas–12:00
D. 13 at Los Angeles Rams–1:00
D. 20 SAN FRANCISCO–1:00
D. 27 DETROIT–1:00

Los Angeles Rams
S. 13 at Houston–12:00
S. 20 MINNESOTA–1:00
S. 27 CINCINNATI–1:00
O. 4 at New Orleans–12:00
O.11 PITTSBURGH–1:00
O.18 at Atlanta–1:00
O.26 at Cleveland (Mon.)–9:00
N. 1 SAN FRANCISCO–1:00
N. 8 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
N. 15 at St. Louis–12:00
N. 23 at Washington (Mon.)–9:00
N. 29 TAMPA BAY–1:00
D. 6 at Detroit–1:00
D. 13 ATLANTA–1:00
D. 21 DALLAS (Mon.)–6:00
D. 27 at S.F. (night)–5:00

New Orleans Saints
S. 13 CLEVELAND–12:00
S. 20 at Philadelphia–1:00
S. 27 ATLANTA–12:00
O. 4 L.A. RAMS–12:00
O.11 at St. Louis–12:00
O.18 at Chicago–12:00
O.25 SAN FRANCISCO–12:00
N. 1 at Atlanta–1:00
N. 8 at Los Angeles Rams–1:00
N. 15 at San Francisco–1:00
N. 22 NEW YORK GIANTS–3:00
N. 29 at Pittsburgh–1:00
D. 6 TAMPA BAY–3:00
D. 13 HOUSTON–12:00
D. 20 at Cincinnati–1:00
D. 27 GREEN BAY–12:00

San Francisco 49ers
S. 13 at Pittsburgh–1:00
S. 20 at Cincinnati–1:00
S. 27 PHILADELPHIA–1:00
O. 5 at N.Y. Giants (Mon.)–9:00
O.11 ATLANTA–1:00
O.18 ST. LOUIS–1:00
O.25 at New Orleans–12:00
N. 1 at Los Angeles Rams–1:00
N. 8 HOUSTON–1:00
N. 15 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
N. 22 at Tampa Bay–1:00
N. 29 CLEVELAND (night)–5:00
D. 6 at Green Bay–12:00
D. 14 CHICAGO (Mon.)–6:00
D. 20 at Atlanta–1:00
D. 27 L.A. RAMS (night)–5:00

All times local. All games Sunday unless noted otherwise.

RAIDERS

The *Encyclopedia Americana* hasn't heard of Hokendauqua, Pa. When it does appear on a map, one needs a sharp eye and a magnifying glass to find it.

Actually, it's not that remote. It's north of Allentown, near Schnecksville and Mechanicsville and not far from Hecktown.

Certainly, you would think that when the youngsters of Hokendauqua grow up and move away, they would carry some message to the outside world.

"It's not a moving-away place," Matt Millen says, explaining why his six brothers and four sisters still reside in Hokendauqua. And why he rushes back to his ancestral home when each National Football League season ends.

Millen judges any season a failure if it does not end in the Super Bowl. . . . It was the first non-playoff season for Tom Flores' team since 1981, the Raiders' final year in Oakland.

But do you know something interesting?

Last winter, in parts of Eastern Pennsylvania, there were reportedly a few football fans who knew more about Hokendauqua than they had read or heard lately about the Los Angeles Raiders. And despite his provincial stirrings, Millen finds this an intolerable situation.

While an All-America defensive end, Millen and his Penn State teammates certainly never had any problem commanding attention and respect. The Nittany Lions almost annually challenged for the national collegiate championship.

Matt was a rookie starter in Super Bowl XV when the Raiders beat the Eagles. Three years later he had eight tackles and a sack when Los Angeles limited the Redskins to 90 yards rushing in the Raiders' 38-9 Super Bowl rout.

Last year?

Don't ask. At least it's probably unwise to ask in Millen's presence. But we'll tell you. Last year the Raiders lost their last four and limped home 8-8. In their late-season Monday night game, the nationally televised showcase event which the Raiders once dominated, they were buried 37-0 by Seattle.

Millen judges any season a failure if it does not end in the Super Bowl. The Raiders' 1986 campaign concluded in a loss to the Indianapolis Colts, a team that had opened the season with 13 consecutive defeats. It was the first non-playoff season for Tom Flores' team since 1981, the Raiders' final year in Oakland.

If any invitations were mailed out for the Raiders' Christmas celebration, they were not postmarked Hokendauqua, and they were not signed by Matt Millen, whose intolerance for defeat is notorious.

"At some point you have to check yourself and ask, 'What am I doing here?' " he explains. " 'Am I out here to get a check and say I play in the NFL?' That's a joke. Who cares? There are 1,499 other guys who are playing and more who want to take your job. Are we just here to put in our time, go home and tell everyone what studs we are? That's a joke." But Millen wasn't laughing, and his expression last December was as black as Al Davis' motorcycle jacket.

Yet it sometimes seems as though Millen is even impatient with success.

"Maybe it's because I'm a pessimist," he admits. "I'm so afraid to have something good happen. Maybe it's not the healthiest way to be.

"During the season I can't sleep at night. I can't do anything. I can't eat right. I'm a wreck. I don't sleep after any game. I meet the film guy as soon as the film is processed, and I watch it. I'll still be there at 11 at night. After away games, I'll come down at 4 in the morning. Why not? I can't sleep."

Intensity and total commitment have been a part of Millen's athletic makeup since high school days. He played five different positions on the football team, threw the javelin for the track squad and excelled as a weight lifter.

He started half of Penn State's games as a linebacker his freshman year, then moved into the defensive line. His transition back to inside linebacker, after he was

(continued)

It would be an unexpected twist if Matt Millen could leave the game on the field, but his intensity is such that he never does.

GIANTS

Raiders' hopes generally soar when Marcus Allen is somewhere near the ball, whether catching it or running with it.

(Los Angeles Raiders continued)

drafted by the Raiders, was almost instantaneous. Going into the 1987 opener, Millen has played in 105 consecutive games as a pro.

But by his standards, he has recently had a streak of bad luck.

Take that incident at the conclusion of the 1985 campaign, when the Raiders were blown out of the playoffs by a late New England surge. One of the first people Millen encountered while trotting off the field was Pat Sullivan, general manager of the Patriots, who had aimed a few painful verbal barbs at the Raiders in the closing moments of the contest.

Millen took a swing at the New England executive and lived to regret it.

"I was a fool for doing that," he admits. "But you react, so what are you going to do? I can put on my uniform and say, 'Who cares?' But I care."

When the Raiders lost their first three starts in '86, whole population groups avoided Millen when he trotted toward the tunnel. After the Raiders' season-ending loss to the Colts, the United Nations reportedly considered posting a peacekeeping force in Hokendauqua.

In fact, departed Kansas City Coach John Mackovic may have been the first to make that suggestion. He fumed after one early-season game that the Raiders were trying to purposely maim some of the Chiefs. After reviewing films of that contest, Commissioner Pete Rozelle suspended the Raiders' defensive end Greg Townsend for one game.

"We don't condone violence," Raider Coach Flores said then and repeats today. "We don't teach it. We teach aggressive football."

Todd Christensen, rated by many the best tight end in the NFL, expands upon that.

"One of the things that frustrated me last year was the five-yard bump rule. It apparently applied only to wide receivers. Here I am 10 to 12 yards down the field and someone's got hold of my jersey, or someone's got me by the face mask.

"If the people who are covering me aren't going to play fair, I'm not so naive as to just shrug my shoulders and let them abuse me. No, I'm not that way."

Neither are the Raiders, despite their losing record in '86.

"That's the great thing about this team," points out Lyle Alzado's successor at defensive end, Sean Jones, who recalled that he once got into a fight with a knife-wielding assailant on his way home from a Northeastern University football game through one of the tough sections of Boston. "When I came here, I didn't have to change a bit. Clean play is relative and I don't mean that in a cheap way. When our backs are to the wall, we do what is necessary."

Well, the Raiders' backs are to the wall opening this 1987 campaign. And doing what is necessary in that situation usually means handing the ball to Marcus Allen. Again, the Raiders' superb running back will be backed up by the U.S. Navy.

Last season General Allen and Ensign Napoleon McCallum combined for 1,895 yards rushing, catching passes and returning kicks.

At the conclusion of the season, Allen headed for the Pro Bowl in Honolulu, and McCallum sprinted for the galley of the USS Peleliu, where he served as assistant food services officer.

A ruling this spring by Navy Secretary James Webb may put McCallum's pro career on hold until his five-year service commitment ends. But his contribution during a hectic rookie season was significant, particularly for someone playing a supporting role for Allen, who set a few more team records during 1986. Allen has a career record of 49 rushing touchdowns and has caught a pass in each of his

last 56 league games, both team marks. The former Heisman Trophy winner has rushed for 5,397 yards and has caught 283 passes for 2,757 yards during his five-year pro career.

When the fleet was in, the Raiders certainly seemed to be solid at running back and last year finished fourth in the AFC in rushing with a 111.9-yard per game average. But the quarterbacking assignment remains in flux with Rusty Hilger, third-year pro out of Oklahoma State, casting an increasingly larger shadow.

Jim Plunkett, who will be 40 in December, underwent surgery to repair a rotator cuff injury to his right shoulder. He threw for 1,986 yards and 14 touchdowns, giving him career totals of 25,882 yards and 164 TDs.

There will be a lot of pressure on the quarterback no matter who he is.

"It's not exciting to hear 90,000 people booing you. I know they want us to win, but I hope they realize I want it more than they do."

Marc Wilson voiced those words after last year's second game against Denver. He had 25 completions for 367 yards, but four other passes were plucked for interceptions.

Certainly Los Angeles retains capable pass catchers. Christensen had four 100-yard games last year. Dokie Williams had three, while Allen, Rod Barksdale and Jessie Hester each had one. In two years with the Raiders, Hester has averaged a remarkable 23.6 yards per reception. Veteran James Lofton was obtained from Green Bay in a trade.

Wide receiver Mervyn Fernandez, MVP in the Canadian Football League in 1985, signed a four-year contract with the Raiders in March. The Raiders had been trying to buy out his contract since 1983 when they selected him in the 10th round of the NFL draft. A former San Jose State star who runs the 40 in 4.4 seconds, Fernandez had 370 receptions for 6,405 yards and 55 touchdowns in his four seasons with the British Columbia Lions.

Competition will be particularly fierce in the offensive line except at center, where Don Mosebar excels. Henry Lawrence and Shelby Jordan dueled last season at right tackle. Chris Riehm had the same sort of rivalry with Charley Hannah, while Mickey Marvin, Curt Marsh and second-year lineman Bill Lewis may play increasingly important roles.

The Raiders have the best defense in the AFC, built around linebackers Millen, Jeff Barnes, Rod Martin and Reggie McKenzie, ends Howie Long and Jones, tackle Bill Pickel, cornerbacks Mike Haynes and Lionel Washington, who was obtained from St. Louis in a trade, and safety Vann McElroy.

McElroy, slowed by a hamstring injury in 1985, is coming off a seven-interception season, while cornerback Lester Hayes had a strong first half but tailed off somewhat due to hamstring and foot injuries. Pickel led NFL interior linemen in sacks and also deflected some of the passes rival quarterbacks were

The Raiders' defense, with veteran end Howie Long, is the strongest in the AFC.

able to unload. He underwent arthroscopic knee surgery near the end of the 1986 season.

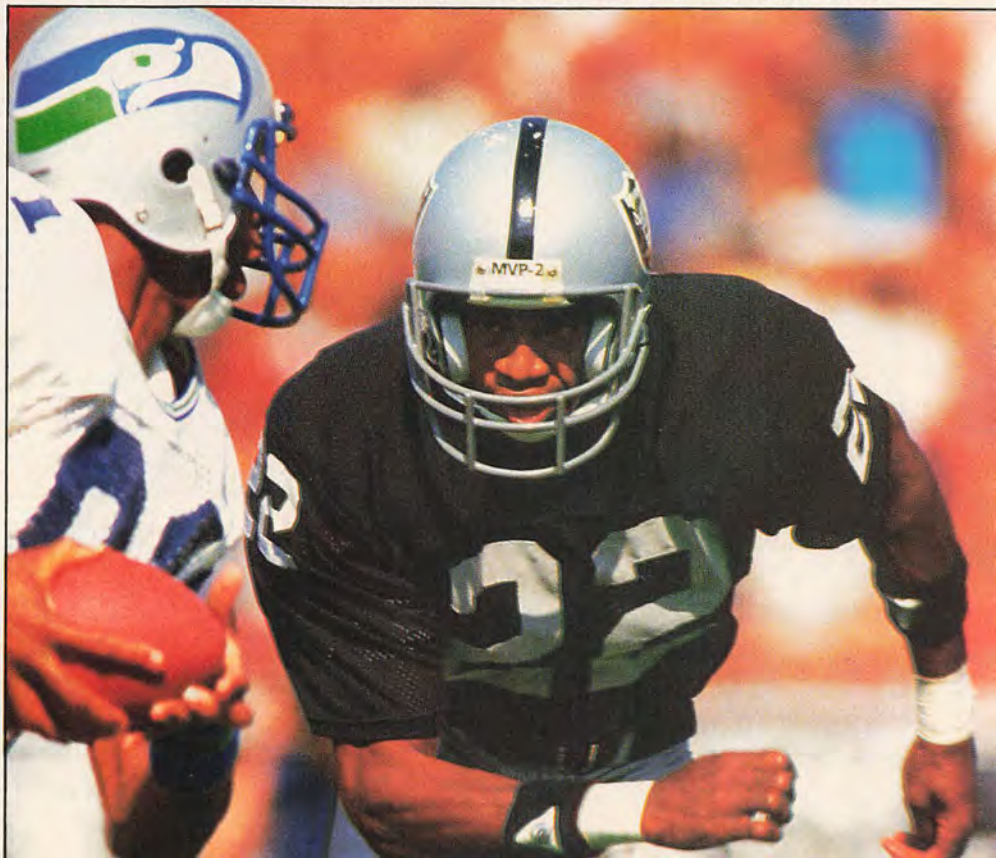
History shows that the Raiders occasionally falter, as they did last year, but they seldom stay on the mat very long. A 9-7 season in 1979 was followed by a Super Bowl championship season in 1980. The Raiders were 7-9 in '81 and in '82 won their AFC West division.

The obvious explanation is that Al Davis, whose teams still have the best winning percentage in professional sports over a 24-year span, is impatient with failure.

In that, he has a lot in common with the most visible resident of Hokendauqua, Pa.

END

Pro Bowler Mike Haynes has 41 interceptions and innumerable tackles in his 11-year career.



In 1934, A Few Gu
Together And Hit

The Sugar Bowl.

No one really believed sportswriter Fred Digby could pull it off when he announced plans for an annual college football "dream game" in New Orleans.

But he showed them all. From the first Tulane-Temple kickoff, the Sugar Bowl was an instant classic.

USF&G Sugar Bowl

This year, USF&G Insurance became the sponsor of the USF&G Sugar Bowl. And we know all about hard-won traditions. Because, 91 years ago, nobody believed

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our founder, either, when he announced he was going to create one of the world's great insurance companies.

So if you want real security for your business, or for your home, auto or life, talk to your independent agent about USF&G Insurance. The company that's made protection against life's hard knocks into a tradition.

USF&G®
INSURANCE

Insuring The Tradition.

SAN DIEGO

One of Al Saunders' first acts after his appointment as head coach of the San Diego Chargers was to phone his wife and ask her to deliver his best sports jacket in time for an afternoon press conference.

During the previous administration at San Diego, there were reports that one assistant coach had been charged with the responsibility of insuring that Don Coryell didn't forget his trousers before he walked out into Jack Murphy Stadium.

To his longtime friends and admirers, the former Chargers coach was a lovable, ruffled, absent-minded genius who could devise a successful pass route over the Swiss Alps.

Saunders, by contrast, has been painted as a highly motivated devotee to discipline, organization and accountability. He not only remembers his pants but also wears a necktie every day to the "office."

San Diego has new leadership, a new philosophy and different direction this fall. But they also have an aging quarterback . . . and a defensive unit hindered by serious injuries.

Under Coryell, the Chargers could move the football from Tijuana to Toronto but sometimes forgot to pack a defense into their traveling bags, along with clean socks and hankies.

Saunders took over as coach in midseason of 1986, following San Diego's seventh straight loss. The Chargers began to show signs of life. After a one-point loss to Kansas City, they beat Denver 9-3 at Mile High Stadium. Then, after three- and six-point defeats by Dallas and the Los Angeles Raiders respectively, their defense rose to unaccustomed heights as they downed Indianapolis 17-3 and shut out Houston 27-0. However, the comeback was transitory. The season closed with a 47-17 drubbing at Cleveland after a 34-24 loss to Seattle.

San Diego has new leadership, a new philosophy and different direction this fall. But they also have an aging quarterback leading a relatively inexperienced team and a defensive unit hindered by serious injuries to linemen Leslie O'Neal and Terry Unrein. The Chargers will still be on the attack in 1987. Whether they will again be vulnerable to devastating counterattack is a question that has to be asked of the new commanding general, who does not avoid such militaristic comparisons.

"Somebody had to come in strong and lead in the right direction," Saunders says. "It was like a battlefield promotion. Dead bodies were lying all over the place. Somebody had to take charge and get up the hill."

He points out that Coryell's early teams in San Diego featured standouts like Doug Wilkerson, Russ Washington, Louie Kelcher, Fred Dean, John Jefferson and Charlie Joiner.

"They were magnificent players whose individuality probably was the key to the success of the team," says Saunders. "They were so dominant, so mature in their level of play that they could be allowed to go their separate ways without hurting the unity of the club.

"This is a totally different team. Last year we had 20 players with less than two years of NFL experience and others who needed direction."

Charger Owner Alex Spanos obviously thinks that Saunders is the man to lead San Diego back into contention. Even before last season, he gave Saunders status and responsibility almost unprecedented for one who carried the title of assistant head coach. Some believe that Coryell's departure had thus been orchestrated long before he announced his resignation.

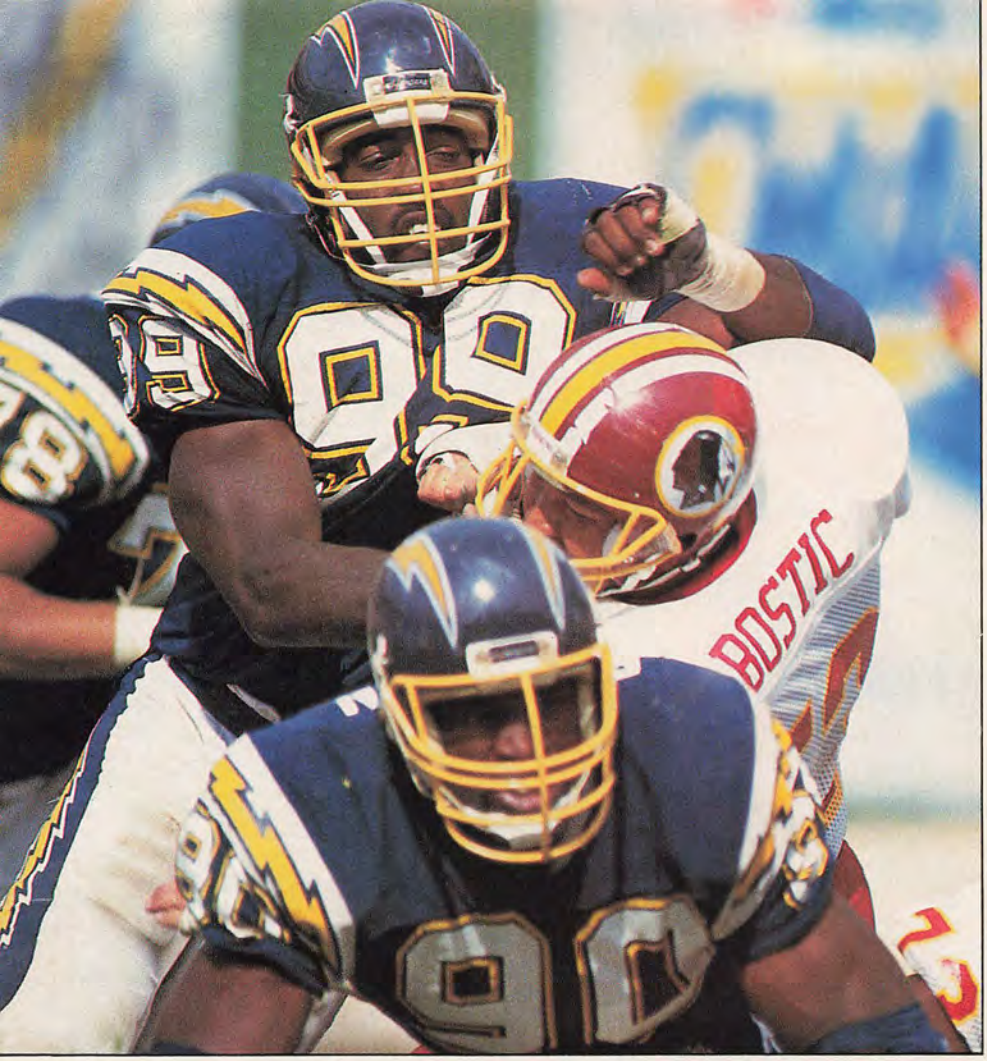
Saunders won't deny that he wanted the head coaching position and that he thinks he can succeed. Although the youngest head coach in the league at 40, he has pointed out that he is the approximate age of Al Davis, Chuck Noll and Tom Landry when they were first given full authority. And he added that Neil Armstrong was 39 when he walked on the moon and set a lunar ground-gaining record.

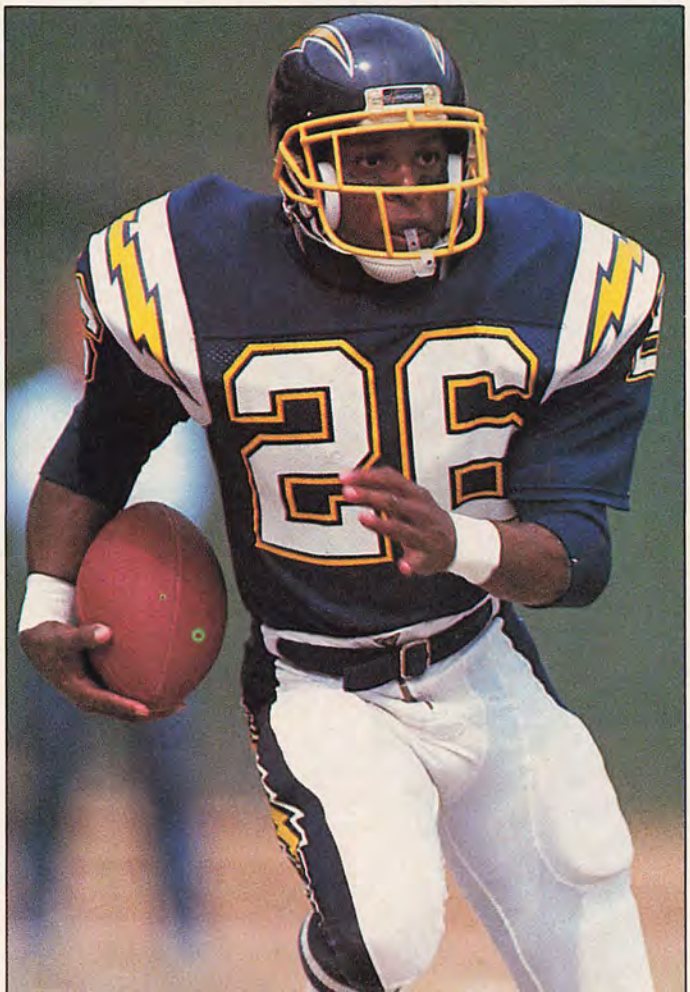
But for all his ambition and self-confidence, Saunders denies that he hastened

(continued)

When push comes to shove, Chargers linebacker Billy Ray Smith (54) faces up to it.

WARREN
54





Chargers defenders (end Lee Williams is No. 99) sometimes turn blockers into sandwiches (above), as in the case of Washington center Jeff Bostic. Versatile Lionel James (right) runs, catches and returns punts and kickoffs.

(San Diego continued)

Coryell's departure. He insists that he has always been able to take orders and quick to seek advice. In fact, he points out that when he wanted to marry, he felt it necessary to pop the question to both his fiance, Karen, and the head coach he then served at Utah State, Phil Krueger. Saunders didn't want to do anything that might disrupt the team.

Saunders' goals in his first full season as an NFL head coach are easy to define. It is essential, he says, that the Chargers' defense improve and take some pressure off quarterback Dan Fouts.

"I don't see a lot of people who are happy about the Chargers," Saunders says, alluding to another last-place finish in the AFC West last season.

And that starts with the defense. After inspired efforts last year against Denver and Indianapolis, the Chargers reverted to their old ways. They were 23rd in the league in total defense and 25th against the pass.

San Diego made a key move to strengthen the defense when it acquired linebacker Chip Banks from Cleveland in an exchange of draft picks. Banks was a Pro Bowler four of his five seasons with the Browns.

End O'Neal had 12½ sacks, fifth in the AFC, despite a season-ending injury in late November. He had been considered a strong candidate for Rookie of the Year before he tore the medial collateral ligament and anterior cruciate ligament in his knee. It's the type of injury that put AFC rushing leader Curt Warner of Seattle out of action for a year. O'Neal may miss part or all of 1987.

But there are glimmers of hope. Against Denver, the Chargers had three pass interceptions and two fumble recoveries. They clinched the win when safety Vencie Glenn intercepted John Elway's last-gasp pass in the end zone. Defensive coordinator Ron Lynn swore that, for once, the Charger defensive players "were almost eager to go into the game."

The late-season loss of O'Neal was partially offset by the return to action of end Earl Wilson. Some Charger coaches suggested last fall that Wilson should have reported to the whale tank at Sea World. He paid $3,400 in fines before his weight dropped to an acceptable 275 pounds. But he was injured in a preseason game and didn't return until November, when he helped key the upset win over the Broncos.

In spite of the Chargers' low defensive rank, sacks were plentiful enough. They had more sacks (62) than the Giants (59) and only two less than the Bears. Linebacker Billy Ray Smith had 11. The other linebackers include Gary Plummer, Thomas Benson and Woodrow Lowe.

End Lee Williams continued to improve as a pass rusher and wound up with 15 sacks, second in the AFC. Cornerbacks Ken Taylor and Daniel Hunter are second-year men. Strong safety Jeff Dale had 101 tackles. Gill

(continued on page 144)

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GOLIAD

When Bob Golic joined the Cleveland Browns after three years with the New England Patriots, he was a 242-pound linebacker in search of a new job—any job. It was 1982, a strange year marred by a 57-day players' strike, and the Browns were not only bending but breaking on defense.

Golic started four of the final five games (three of them losses) as the smallest nose tackle in the league, and then began thinking about ways to muscle up to 270 pounds. "When the Browns called," says Golic, "they said they wanted me to be a nose tackle. I had been around long enough to know about the position, so I wasn't sure I was interested. To play nose tackle, you have to be unemployed or crazy. I was unemployed. The other part is still up in the air."

What's certain is Golic's talent and refreshing personality, both of which have helped the Browns win back-to-back titles in the ever-changing AFC Central Division. Last year, Golic's best at a position that attracts blocks from all angles, the 12-4 Browns made it to the AFC title game before losing a dramatic 23-20 overtime contest to the Denver Broncos.

"To play nose tackle, you have to be unemployed or crazy. I was unemployed. The other part is still up in the air."

"I am excited now about playing nose tackle," says Golic. "I enjoy it more than linebacker. At linebacker, you kind of run around, and every now and then you make a tackle. At nose tackle, you're one-on-one every play, and you know whether you won or lost. Sure, you're a sacrificial lamb, but it's a lot of fun."

Fun at nose tackle? Joe Klecko, Bill Maas, Joe Nash and the other hardworking nose men will get a laugh out of that. But Golic is like that, a free spirit who keeps 'em laughing in the locker room and smiling in children's hospitals in the off-season. As Golic likes to say about his position: "I went from an upright, thinking, two-legged, walking human being as a linebacker to a four-legged, sniveling, groveling beast-of-burden nose tackle. It's obviously not your glory position."

Obviously. But Golic has tied up enough blockers and played the angles well enough to be voted to the Pro Bowl for two straight seasons. His background as an All-America wrestler at Notre Dame (career record: 54-4-1) played a part in his rise to fame at nose tackle, where balance, lower body strength and initial quickness mean as much as they do on the mat.

"Bob commands a great deal of respect from the players on this team because of his toughness and his commitment to excellence," says Browns Coach Marty Schottenheimer, borrowing a phrase from the Los Angeles Raiders. "He's a very positive influence and a leader by example."

Says linebacker Chip Banks, a 1982-86 Brown who was traded to San Diego: "He's one of the premier nose guards in the league. He does an exceptional job, going from sideline to sideline, making plays and being around the ball all the time."

The Browns' defensive unit includes a number of players who came out of nowhere to become starters. End Carl "Big Daddy" Hairston was obtained from Philadelphia for a ninth-round draft pick in 1984. In 1986, linebacker Anthony Griggs came from the Eagles for an eighth-round pick, along with strong safety Ray Ellis, who was claimed on waivers.

Cornerback Frank Minnifield jumped from the United States Football League in 1984. Pass-rushing end Sam Clancy, a four-year basketball letterman at Pitt, was obtained from Seattle for a seventh-round pick. Linebacker Eddie Johnson, once considered too light for the NFL, was a seventh pick in 1981. Yet none of these overachievers beat bigger odds than Golic.

Golic was drafted in the second round in 1979. The draft included fellow linebackers Barry Krauss, former Brown Tom Cousineau, Jim Haslett, Ken Fantetti, George Andrews, Jerry Robinson and Rich Milot. Golic missed all but the last game of his rookie year with a training-camp shoulder injury. Over the next two years, he started 12 games for the Patriots but was waived before the 1982 season.

(continued)

On every hand, the Browns' Bob Golic finds trouble against Bears but holds his own.

63

Demonstrating the basic elements are safety Chris Rockins, tackling Walter Payton, and . . .

(Cleveland continued)

"They were leaning towards small, fast inside linebackers (Golic was an All-American in football, too, at Notre Dame), and I was neither," he says. "I could sense during training camp that I was being eased out. I remember thinking, 'My God, is this all? Am I finished with football?' When I started playing football as a kid, my father made me promise that once I stopped enjoying the game, I would walk away from it. Otherwise, I'd be cheating myself and the team I was on. There was no enjoyment for me with the Patriots, so I contemplated walking away from the game."

The Browns wouldn't let him. After being given a crash course on nose-tackle technique, Golic stepped into a starting role after Henry Bradley was injured. Golic's biggest problem was leverage, which is what playing nose tackle is all about. For a while, his linebacker instincts took over, and he found himself looking into the backfield before the snap.

"With the size of some of the centers in the league," Golic says, laughing, "that wasn't a very smart thing to do. But you learn very quickly about that, especially when you're being gored like a matador. At Notre Dame they'd move me every once in a while to nose tackle to give the offense a different look. But that was probably less than 20 percent of the time. And I didn't have the responsibilities I have now. By no means did it prepare me for what I was to face with the Browns."

As it turned out, Golic had the perfect temperament for nose tackle. In the trade, nose tackles are known as scufflers who play every down as if it were the Super Bowl. And Golic's free-spirited humor mustn't be mistaken for a carefree, so-what attitude. Late in a 41-7 rout of the Browns in 1984, the San Francisco 49ers scored on a draw-trap play from outside the 10-yard line. An angry Golic sailed his helmet towards the sideline.

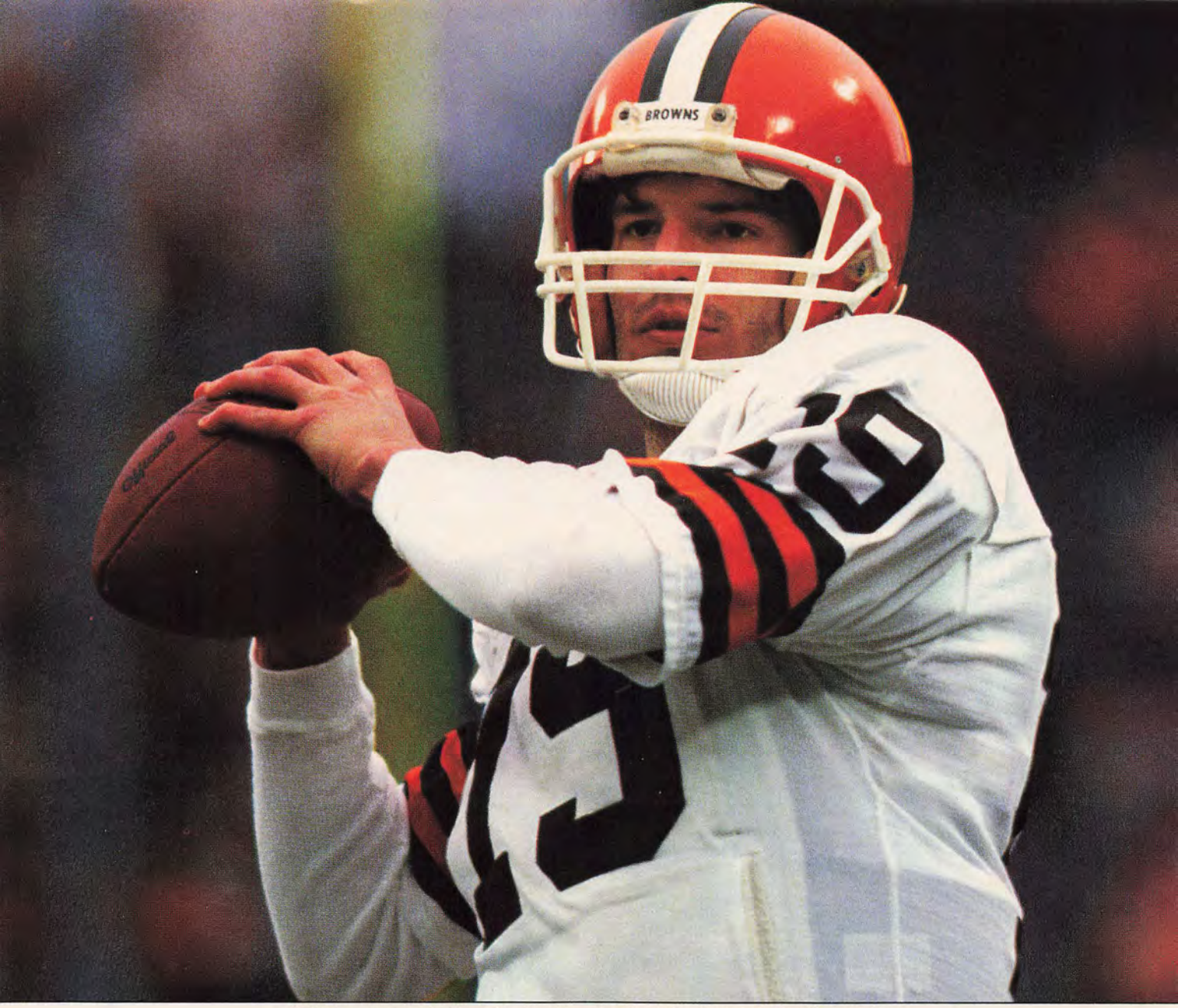
But even after Golic became more comfortable at nose tackle, he needed to muscle up to the 270-280-pound range. That's where strength coach Dave Redding stepped in. The project amounted to, says Redding, "some severe activity in the weight room." Activity so severe it gave Golic the strength to squat-lift 730 pounds, a team high. Says Pittsburgh center Mike Webster, who must face him twice each season: "Bob Golic is the personality of their defense and their leader. He's as good as anyone I've played against. He's strong and quick and has great mobility. But I think his biggest attributes are his competitiveness and mental toughness."

. . . Pro Bowl tackle Cody Risien, blocking for his quarterback, Bernie Kosar.

With a defense reshaped over the past six years by trades, USFL imports, draft picks and, in Golic's case, a little bit of Owner Art Modell's luck, the Browns have won two straight division titles. They still need a dominant pass rusher (34-year-old Hairston led the defense last year with nine sacks) and are still trying to develop 6-7 Clancy for that role. But elsewhere, the Browns are solid. To replace Banks, they took linebacker Mike Junkin of Duke No. 5 after trading places with San Diego in the first round of the draft.

Golic and Banks (90 solo tackles, 35 assists, five sacks, four forced fumbles and two recoveries) were joined in the Pro Bowl by cornerback Hanford Dixon. The other linebackers, Eddie Johnson (117 tackles), Griggs and 10-year vet Clay Matthews, can run and hit. The safeties, Ellis and Chris Rockins (team-high 135 tackles), may be the best pair of hitters in the conference.

It's hard to imagine, but the Browns ranked 23rd in defense just five years ago. The unit ranked 19th last year after jumping to ninth in 1985 but played better than the ranking until the heartbreaking loss to the Broncos. In the first four games of the season, the Browns were pounded for 112 points; in the last four,



If the Browns go to the Super Bowl, as they almost did, Bernie Kosar will guide them there.

only 47. But after young Bernie Kosar led the Browns to a miraculous, double-overtime win over the New York Jets in a divisional playoff, the defense reverted to an old habit. It let John Elway and the Broncos drive 98 yards for a game-tying touchdown and 60 yards for the winning field goal in another overtime thriller.

With Kosar emerging as a big-play quarterback worth every penny of his $5 million contract, the Browns have their most potent offense in years. Kosar had the lowest interception percentage (1.9) among the top 27 NFL quarterbacks last year and a 58.4 percent completion rate.

Since 1985 the Browns have had Kevin Mack and Earnest Byner, a one-two running punch. But last year Byner went down in the seventh game and the Browns' ground game slipped all the way to 22nd in the league. Still, with a healthy Byner and spot runners Curtis Dickey (523 yards on 135 carries) and Herman Fontenot as backups, the Browns can run on almost anybody.

The receiving corps, once a glaring weakness that even Modell joked about, has improved but still needs a proven game-breaker. Despite Kosar's presence, the Browns didn't place a wide-out among the league's top 32 receivers. Little Brian Brennan (5-9, 178) led the team with 55 catches for 838 yards. Rookie Webster Slaughter, who has 4.5 speed in the 40, has great potential. But the pass catcher who may become Kosar's home-run receiver is Reggie Langhorne, who averaged 17.4 yards on 39 catches. Tight end Ozzie Newsome, now 31, averaged 63 catches over eight previous seasons but made only 39 last year. He was plagued by injuries.

Upfront, the Browns showed a nice blend of youth (tackle Paul Farren, who was shifted from guard after Rickey Bolden broke his arm in the fifth game, and guards Dan Fike and Larry Williams) and experience (Pro Bowl tackle Cody Risien and center Mike Baab). All are 270 or bigger and can move. The unit allowed 39 sacks but only seven in the last five games.

Kicker Matt Bahr was 20 for 26 in field-goal attempts before a knee injury brought Mark Moseley to the rescue (6 for 7 and the winning field goal in the playoff against the Jets). Moseley, signed by Cleveland after Washington released him, was dropped by the Browns in May. Punter Jeff Gossett ranked fifth in the AFC with a 41.2-yard average. Gerald McNeil, a 5-7, 140-pound burner made kickoff returns an adventure, averaging 21.2 yards and breaking one for a 100-yard touchdown. He also returned a punt 84 yards for a score.

"We made some strides," says Schottenheimer, "but we didn't fulfill our true goal. That leaves us something to do. But I can assure you, this team will be back."

END

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Sack Attack
Big Bounty on NFL QBs

by Gordon Forbes

The significance of the sack is in the eye of the beholder.

The San Diego Chargers dropped quarterbacks for losses 62 times last year, 22 more than the previous season. Yet the struggling Chargers finished with a 4-12 record, which was four fewer wins than in their 40-sack season of 1985.

Chris Washington, a linebacker, wrapped up the passer only four and a half times, but that was enough to lead the Tampa Bay Bucs, who totaled only 19 sacks in 484 pass rushes. The Bucs finished 2-14, the identical record they had in 1985, when they were credited with 35 sacks.

George Young, general manager of the Super Bowl champion New York Giants, once called the sack a "media creation." He meant that its importance is overrated, perhaps because of the style of such free-spirited sackers as Mark Gastineau of the New York Jets and Dexter Manley of the Washington Redskins.

After all, sacks are related to several factors: 1. the score of the game; 2. the style of the quarterback (plodder or scrambler); 3. the effectiveness of the cornerback coverage; and 4. the presence of a truly great pass rusher like Howie Long of the Los Angeles Raiders, who often ties up two blockers and frees a fellow sacker to knock down the quarterback.

Even the correlation between sacks and winning varies from year to year. According to Chuck Clausen, Atlanta Falcons linebackers coach who has almost made a career of keeping such stats, there was a 30 percent correlation of sacks to winning last year. In other words, teams that won had more sacks only 30 percent of the time. But in 1985 the correlation was higher: 44 percent.

"It basically has varied between 30 and 44 percent over the last 15 years," says Clausen. "There are a couple of facts to consider. The main one is that if the offense is ahead, you're going to get more opportunities. That's one of the reasons that the Giants this past year and the Bears the previous year were big sack teams. If they ever got a 10-point lead, they killed you. But if you could keep it close and they had to play the run, you had a chance to beat them."

One of the few unchallenged truths about the sack is that it is the quickest way, short of a turnover, to stop an offense. The Cleveland

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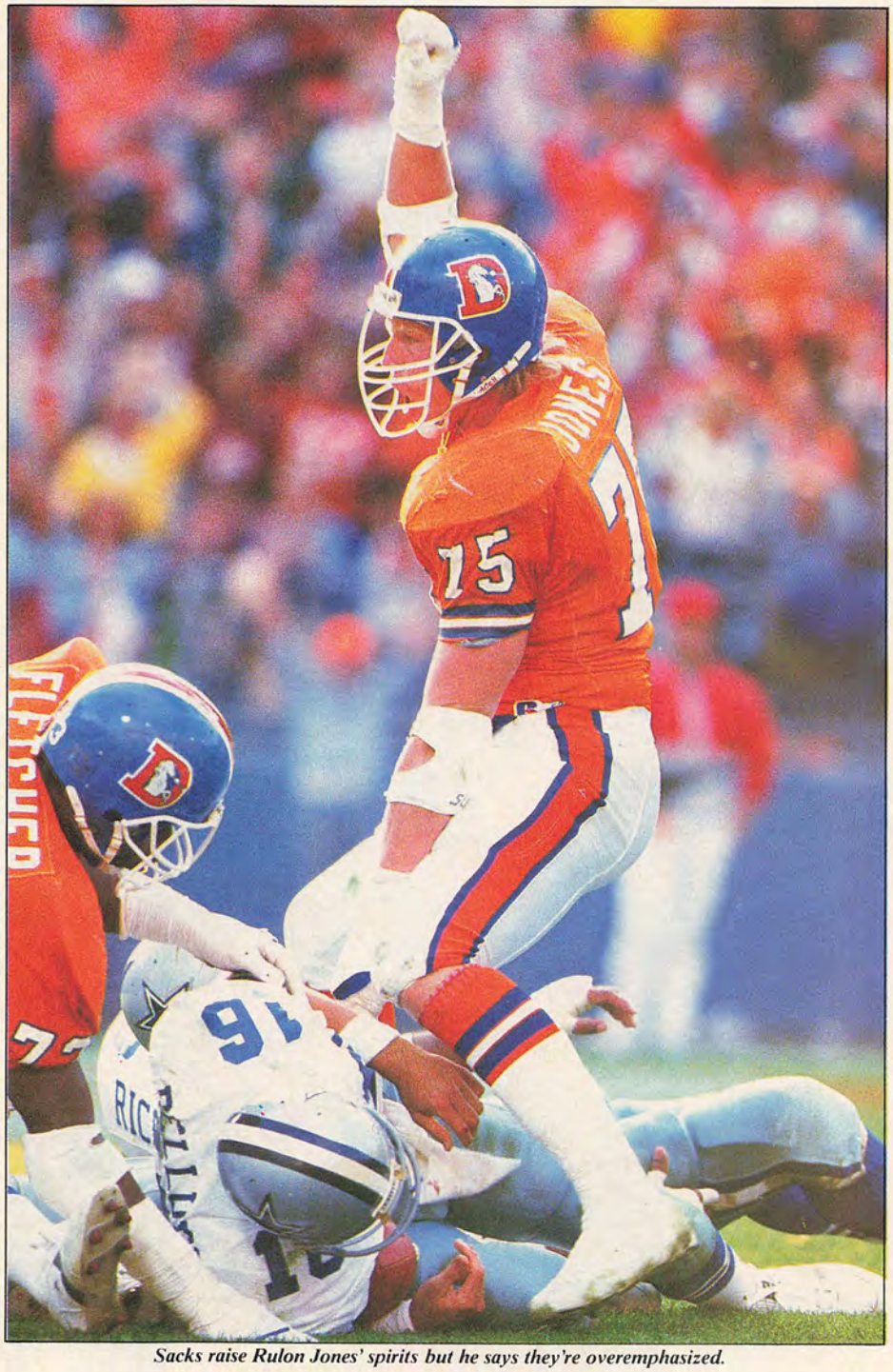

Sacks raise Rulon Jones' spirits but he says they're overemphasized.

Lawrence Taylor (above) of the Giants, Schick NFL Player of the Year, was the league's top sacker in '86 with 20½. The five-time All-Pro (in his six years in the league) and six-time Pro Bowler was also NFL Defensive MVP. The Jets' Mark Gastineau (right) is the current career sack leader with 96.

(Sack Attack continued)

Browns were in desperate need of a sack in last year's American Conference title game against Denver. Yet they could never trap John Elway, who passed the Broncos to a dramatic overtime win that was set up by a classic 98-yard scoring drive. The Browns' leading sacker during the year (with nine) was 34-year-old Carl Hairston, who had to be feeling his age near the end of the game.

Two years ago, the Bears, blitzing and looping from Buddy Ryan's 46 defense, totaled 64 sacks and 16 more in the playoffs. The Miami Dolphins, however, found a way to cope with the Bears' pressure, which came from all angles. Coach Don Shula, using a brilliant offensive game plan, deployed a two-back, three-receiver set, using backs Woody Bennett and Tony Nathan as pass protectors to pick up the Bears' blitz. The receivers, Mark Clayton, Mark Duper and Nat Moore, ran three-man patterns. It helped that quarterback Dan Marino has one of the quickest releases in football. The scheme produced 31 points on the Dolphins' first five possessions in a 38-24 upset. Ahead in the score, the Dolphins became the sackers, rather than the sackees, and got six traps.

In the 1970s, quarterbacks usually went down in a crowd of fallen blockers and pass rushers. That was an era of so-called cushion protection, when the center, guards and tackles kept a cushion between the defense and the blockers. In theory, the pass protectors retreated and formed a cup, or pocket. But as the rushers got faster and teams developed sack specialists, the technique of pass protection changed. Blockers, now able to shove or jam with their arms because of liberalized blocking rules, became more aggressive. Their technique was known as a stretch style, where the tackles stretched the defensive ends outside. Inside, the guards and centers set up aggressively in what was called firm protection.

The answer from the defensive side of the ball was to draft quick, fast linebackers and to rush the best pass rushers from several different spots along the line. Sometimes, defenses used rushers in combinations with linebacker blitzes. The game's best blitzer, of course, is Lawrence Taylor, the Giants' weak-side linebacker, who led the National Football League last season with 20½ sacks. His six-year total is 71½ sacks, just ahead of Manley, who has 70½ in six years. Gastineau has 96 in eight years after an injury-plagued, two-sack season in 1986.

"I guess I'm just a plain, wild dude," says Taylor. "I've got a switch, and I can turn it up when it has to be turned up. On Sundays, I hit a switch and I'm ready to go."

Taylor is one of the few defensive players who can influence another team's game plan by his mere presence. He is simply too quick and strong to be handled by a 200-pound back, and too elusive to be contained by sliding a

(continued on page 203)

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CINCINNATI

For more years than he cares to remember, James Brooks has been fighting long odds.

He was a 150-pound halfback at Warner Robins High School, a powerhouse in Georgia football. He was recruited by Auburn, which already had two gifted backs, William Andrews and Joe Cribbs. He was a first-round draft pick of the San Diego Chargers, who tried to convert him into a 180-pound lead blocker for 230-pound Chuck Muncie. And three years ago, he was traded to Cincinnati for fullback Pete Johnson, one of the most popular Bengals.

"When people talk about the top backs, I want them to rate me up there with them. I think I'm as good as anybody."

But over the last two years, Brooks has finally beaten the odds and convinced the skeptics of his abundant running and receiving skills. After rushing for 929 yards and catching 55 passes in the Bengals' 7-9 season in 1985, he really cut loose last year. His eye-catching totals, 1,087 yards rushing and 54 catches for 686 yards, earned him a Pro Bowl start. And perhaps as important, he was voted the team's MVP by teammates and was treated like a member of royalty by Bengal fans.

"A lot of people are beginning to respect me around the league," says Brooks. "At first they said I couldn't play in this league. But with each game, they see that I can. When people talk about the top backs, I want them to rate me up there with them. I think I'm as good as anybody."

Brooks could build a convincing case from last year's statistics. Running behind a huge line, he ranked eighth in the NFL in rushing. He was only the third back in Cincinnati history to top 1000 yards as he set the club record. His 5.3-yard average was the best in the league among backs with at least 100 carries.

"J. B. is much more than just a running back," says Bengals Coach Sam Wyche, whose club finished 10-6 and was stunned by Cleveland in a late-season AFC Central showdown 34-3. "He's a running back, a wide receiver, a blocking back, anything we want. And more importantly, he's a team player. I've never heard him complain about anything that we've asked him to do, or about whether he's getting the ball often enough."

Perhaps Bengals General Manager Paul Brown sums it up best for Brooks. "He's proud," says Brown.

Brooks had pride in San Diego, too. The Chargers knew he had caught only one pass while rushing for 3,523 yards at Auburn. Yet they drafted him on the first round in 1981, the 24th player picked and the fifth running back behind George Rogers (No. 1), Freeman McNeil (No. 3), Randy McMillan (No. 12) and David Overstreet (No. 13). The Chargers had excellent reports on Brooks' hands, speed, durability and quickness. And in his first two seasons in San Diego, he led the NFL in all-purpose yards (running, receiving and returns), totaling 2,093 yards as a rookie and 1,383 yards in 1982, a strike-shortened season of nine games. Then came the crazy move. Muncie began objecting to any part of a fullback role, so the Chargers installed Brooks as their lead blocker.

"They threw me at fullback because Chuck said he wouldn't play there," Brooks says. "I can't block a 250-pound linebacker."

Brooks' stats fell to 516 yards rushing and 215 yards receiving in 1983. The next spring, he was traded to the Bengals. Wyche, their new coach, installed a sophisticated pass offense that left Brooks hesitant and at times confused. "I wasn't sure of myself on the plays," he admits. "A lot of the time, I was just guessing. When that happens, you're not going to be as effective as you want to be."

Wyche sensed that his breakaway back was doing too much thinking and not enough instinctive cutting for daylight. Near the end of a mediocre season, Brooks was called into the coach's office. Wyche told him to relax and outlined his role in the Bengals' attack, which had enough other weapons to rank fifth in the league.

"He assured me I would get the ball," says Brooks. "When I came to Cincinnati,

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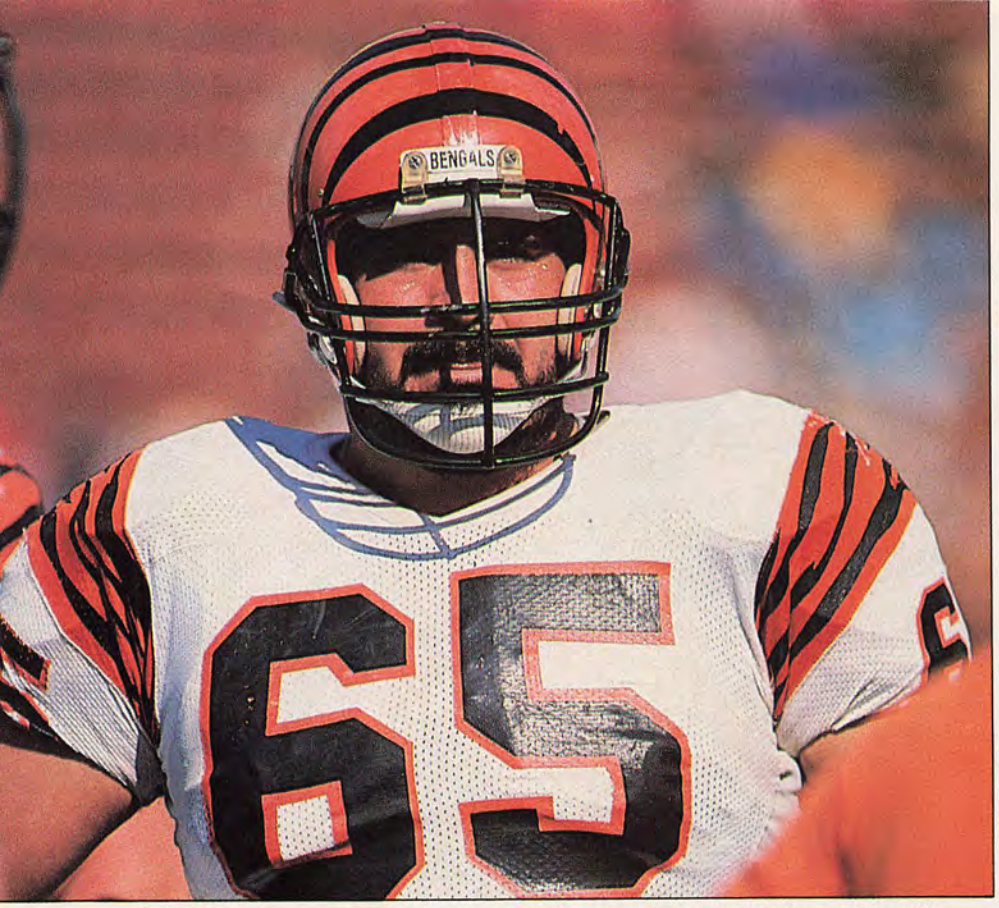
James Brooks was flying high after setting a team record for rushing (1,087 yards) and being voted the Bengals' MVP.



At 275, Max Montoya is a lightweight, sort of, on a Bengal offensive interior averaging 280.

(Cincinnati continued)

I expected that, but it didn't work out. I might have been a bit spoiled. I knew I had to shake it off and come back the next year and show people I could play."

What followed was the most demanding off-season conditioning program of Brooks' life. Besides pumping iron with regularity, he did much extra running.

"It dawned on me that I had always had a way of putting myself first when I should have been putting the team first," he admits. "That was only hurting me. Coming to that realization turned my career around. I went into the 1985 minicamp thinking that the Bengals were at least offering me a chance to use my talents, which the Chargers never had."

Wyche calls his first year as Cincinnati coach an experimental season. "A lot of players, including J. B., were mistreated, as far as using their talents to best advantage." Wyche also says, "I'd heard rumors that he was hard to coach." That knock probably related to a game against Pittsburgh late in Brooks' final San Diego season. John Cappelletti was injured, and backfield coach Earnel Durden waved Brooks into the huddle. Brooks refused to leave the bench, claiming his ankle was too swollen to play.

"In the warmups, I couldn't even run," says Brooks. "He (Durden) came to me and said, 'James, can you play?' I said, 'Coach, I can't even run two steps.' "

As it turned out, Brooks' reputation as a rebel was more imagined than real. Since rededicating himself to the team concept, Brooks has emerged as a scuffling back willing to sacrifice a bruise or two for the extra yard. His last two Bengal seasons prove it. His combined 1985-86 statistics give him 2,016 rushing yards (5.08 average), 109 catches for 1,262 yards (11.58) and 21 touchdowns.

"Pete (Johnson) was a great player when he was here," says receiver Cris Collinsworth. "But James has become a great multidimensional player. We count on him every time we need something in the clutch."

Brooks' skills with a football were much in evidence in a game against Houston last year. He had a 133-yard rushing day, but it was his performance in the final 1:26 that thrilled Bengal fans. With the Oilers leading 28-24 on a 93-yard fumble return by linebacker Robert Lyles, Brooks virtually took over the game. After catching a 24-yard pass from Boomer Esiason, Brooks wiggled loose on a nifty trap play, broke two tackles and scored the winning touchdown from 21 yards out with 43 seconds left on the clock.

"They were probably the best back-to-back plays I've ever seen," says Collinsworth. "First, he went over the middle and made a great leaping catch and hung onto the ball after getting hit hard. On the next play, he took a handoff, hurdled one guy, broke a tackle and went into the end zone."

Says Oilers Coach Jerry Glanville: "He's their team. He's an exceptional runner and receiver, and he doesn't always go where the play's designed. When there's no hole, he improvises. Right now, I think he's as good as there is."

Brooks has always been the kind of back who could pull off a tough play. At Warner Robins High, he scored 45 touchdowns and rushed for over 3,000 yards on a team that went 31-2 in his three seasons.

Brooks chose Auburn because it was close

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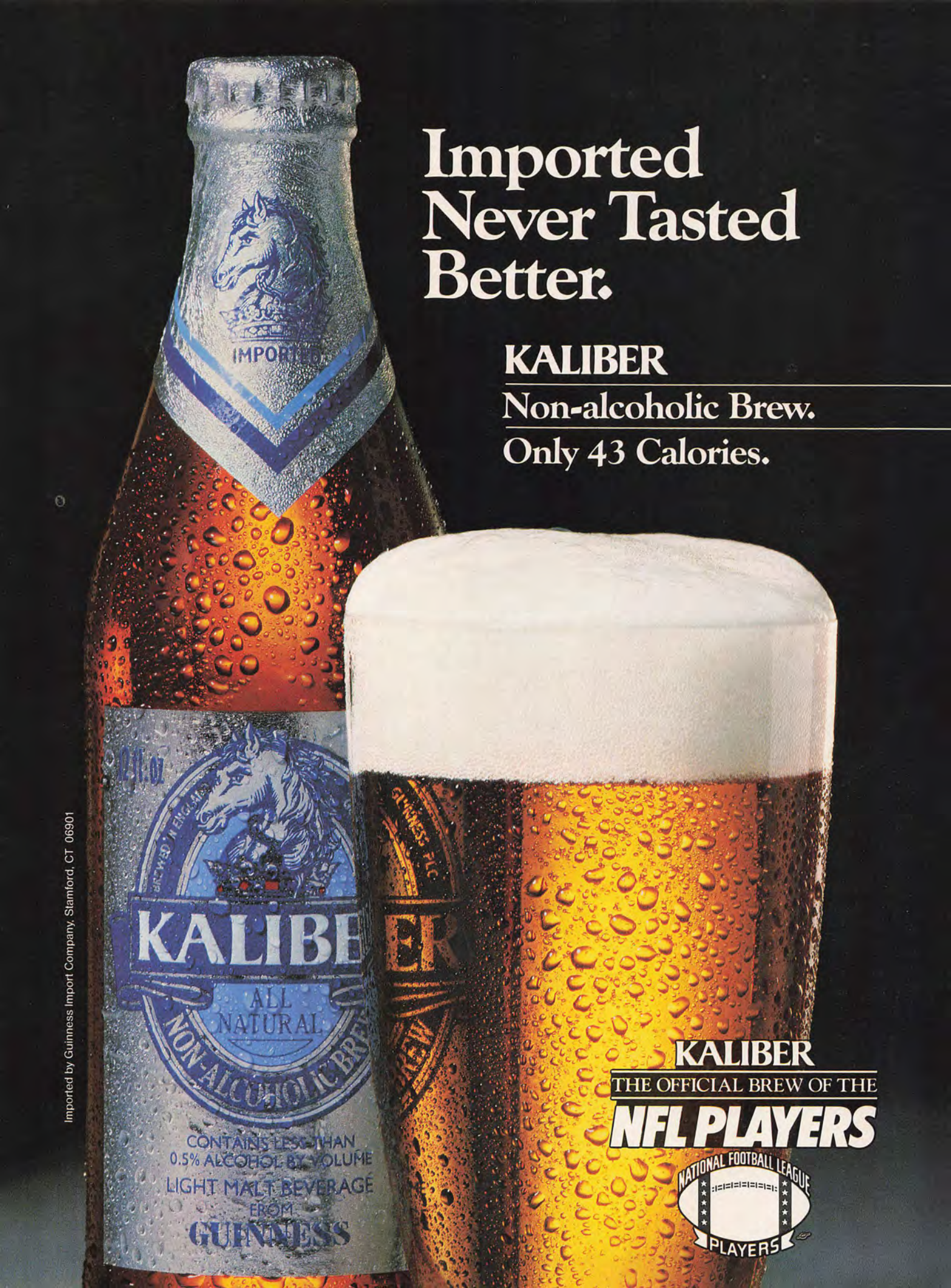
Larry Kinnebrew has been a four-yard gainer throughout his Cincinnati career.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Honey Watching On a Sunday Afternoon

Brute strength, intricate strategy; nimble runs, devastating blocks: Fans of pro football can expect a full range of exciting athletic competition on a Sunday afternoon. And complementing the beasts on the field are the beauties on the sidelines, showcased here in Athlon's *salute to the cheerleaders of the National Football League.*

Lisa Coles (opposite page) is a Los Angeles Rams cheerleader who's doubly talented; her ambition is to write and act in her own movies. Lisa's script for the '87 Rams? Super Bowl bound. The Los Angeles Raiders boast a trio of comely Raiderettes. Cindy Sullivan (top left) is a professional model and aerobics instructor. Christine Gallegos (top right), a first-year Raiderette, is an aspiring actress. Paige Hagele (left) also hopes to light the screen at the Bijou. In the meantime, she works at a Beverly Hills jewelry store, where she's no doubt the brightest gem.

(continued)

Honey Watching

(continued)

Three reasons why we'd rather be in Philadelphia, courtesy of the Eagles: Susette Cristinzio's (top left) musical name hints at her accomplishments as a singer and dancer. We just can't get enough of Cass Vanderslice (top right), who returns to grace these pages. You'll also find her fetching image on billboards and in Cosmopolitan *magazine. Janet Wass (left) is a four-year veteran at Veterans Stadium. We'd call her beauty unequaled except that she's one of triplets.*

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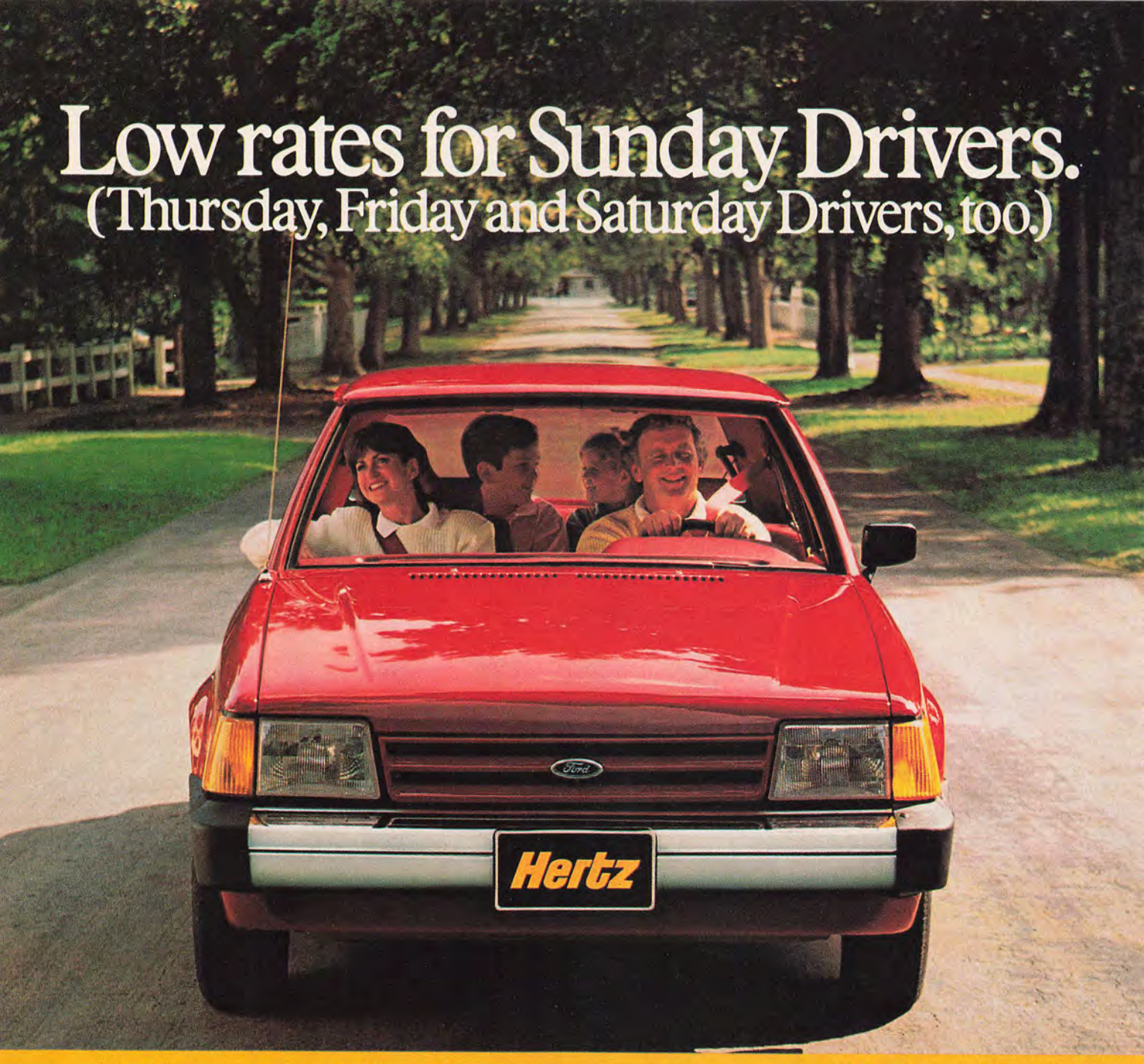

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Honey Watching

(continued)

There are no blues in St. Louis when these two lovelies don Cardinal red. Gretchen Stockdale (left) works in marketing and enjoys skiing, skating and tennis. She says she loves all sports, especially football. Cindy Marklin (below) is a fashion coordinator at a St. Louis department store and has been a Cardinal cheerleader for three years. Cindy plans to further her career in fashion and design, and is also interested in public relations.

(continued)

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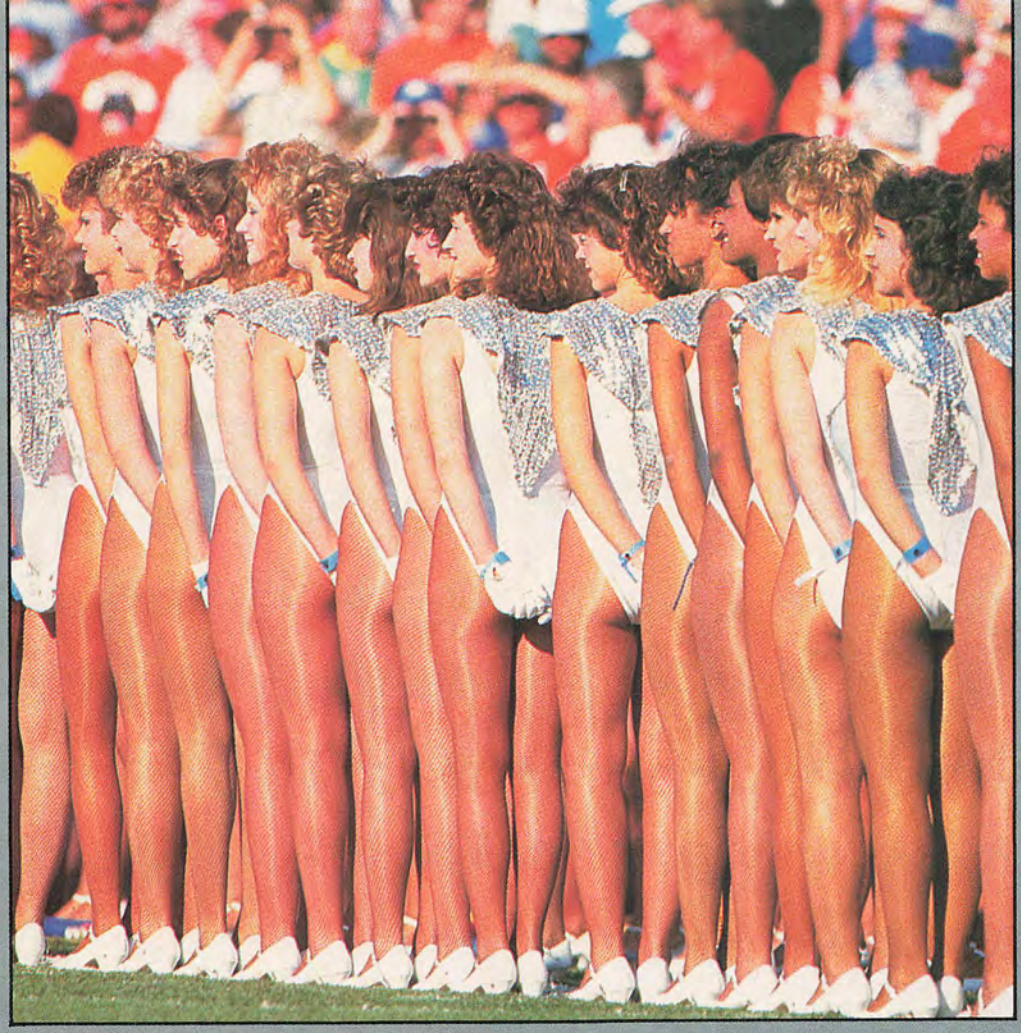

Honey Watching

(continued)

Lucky fans at Super Bowl XXI thrilled to some fancy legwork, not only from Joe Morris and Sammy Winder, but also from this arousing array of Super Bowl Majorettes (above). Year after year, whether your team wins or loses, watching the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders is always a pleasure.

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Gary Anderson caught the fancy of Chargers fans with receptions like this, coupled with his running and other talents.

(San Diego continued)

Byrd, who played at safety and cornerback, had a team-high five interceptions, which he returned 45 yards.

On offense, the Chargers expect to throw more short, high-percentage passes. Last year Fouts, 36, topped 40,000 in career passing yards, a plateau he shares with only two others: Fran Tarkenton and Johnny Unitas. His 40,523 yards is second only to Tarkenton's 47,003.

But Fouts was also intercepted 22 times. A concussion and shoulder injury limited him and gave Tom Flick some playing time.

"I think the reason the team has gone down is that Fouts has been injured the last four years," says former Cleveland Coach Sam Rutigliano. "They should make a special wing in the Hall of Fame for Fouts, because he did what he did on a team without a defense."

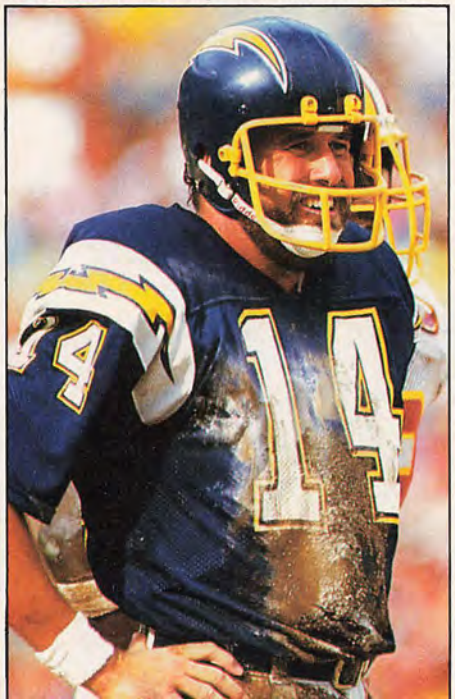
Fouts' offensive line has proven talent in center Don Macek, guard Gary Kowalski and tackle Sam Claphan.

The Chargers have always had receivers to match the considerable skills of their quarterback. Kellen Winslow and Wes Chandler were again ranked among the AFC leaders. But the No. 1 receiver was Gary Anderson with 80 catches, second among NFL running backs in 1986. He was also the fourth-leading punt returner in the AFC and earned a Pro Bowl spot.

"Anderson may be as versatile a back as ever came out of college football," says Gil Brandt, Dallas Cowboys vice president of personnel development.

When he's healthy, that description also fits 5-6, 170-pound Lionel "Little Train" James, who led the AFC in catches in 1985. He missed the last nine games of '86 with an ankle injury. James hints that the Chargers are about to enter a new era of respectability under Saunders.

Dan Fouts: Can he top Fran Tarkenton's mark?



The Chargers obtained another talented receiver by exchanging a 1988 draft pick for Tim Smith of Houston. Smith led Oiler receivers in 1983-84.

Certainly the past and present coaches of the Chargers have contrasting backgrounds. Coryell is a former ski trooper in the Army Mountain Corps, who once roamed the white-capped Cascades outside of Seattle.

Growing up in California, Saunders was introduced to water only after it had melted. One of his athletic specialties was swimming, a sport that seemed to fit him like Speedo shorts. He recalled that when he turned out for his first swim team his coach would stand at one end of the pool and whack lagging competitors on the rear end with a length of rubber tubing. Properly motivated, Saunders set a national age-group record.

He now appears ready to chase the Chargers out into the deep water of Mission Bay. And he seems convinced that, this time, they'll stay afloat.

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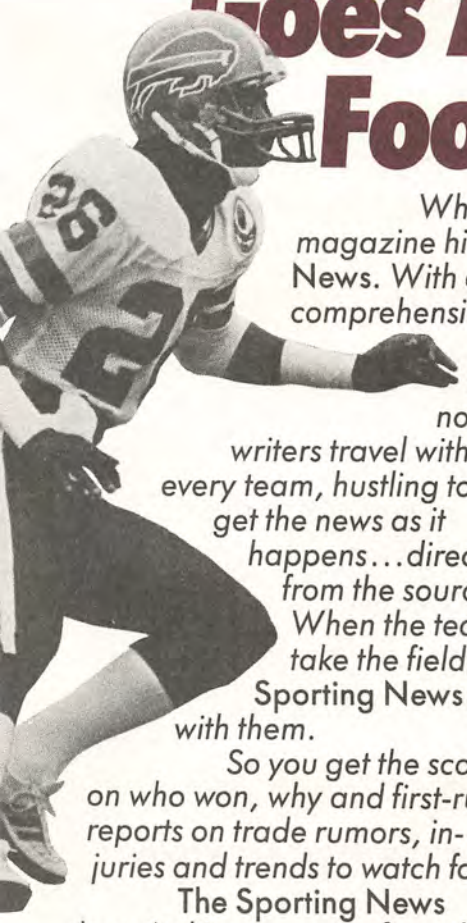

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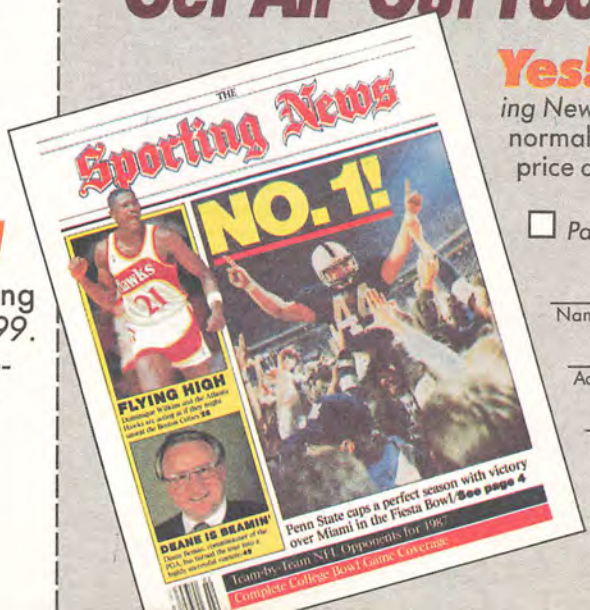
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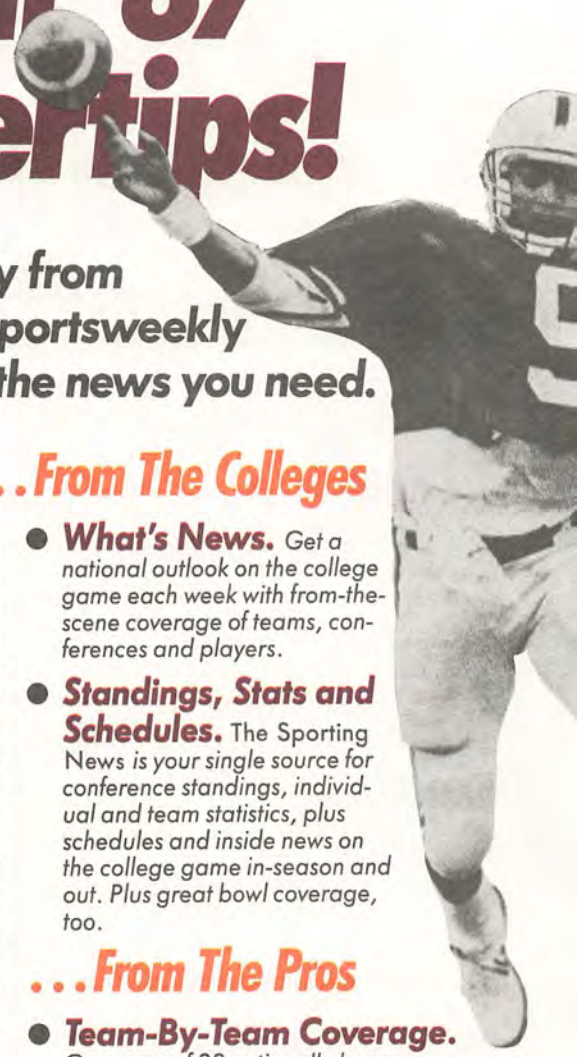

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(Tampa Bay continued)

the next 14 games and was sacked 47 times.

"Every great quarterback has had great leadership qualities," says Perkins. "I've seen that in Vinny." But every great quarterback has receivers, too, and the Bucs had only one wide-out among their top five pass catchers last year. Calvin Magee, a workaholic free agent, won the tight end job and caught a team-high 45 passes, five for touchdowns. Running back James Wilder, who rushed for 704 yards and made 43 catches, still has great skills. Wide-out Gerald Carter, a possession-type end, had a 15.2-yard average on 42 receptions.

Perkins must also upgrade his backfield. Wilder, who missed four games with rib and ankle injuries, is the Bucs' leading career rusher with 4,882 yards. He's only 29 but sometimes must have felt like 39 last season when running behind a suspect line. The surprise of last year's season was running back Nathan Wonsley, a rookie free agent. Showing a variety of moves and speed, Wonsley scored on runs of 59 and 55 yards while gaining 339 yards in nine games. Then he suffered a fracture-dislocation of his neck in the 10th game. His future is uncertain.

"We need speed above all else," says Perkins. "Wilder is a fine football player, but he cannot continue to carry the whole load."

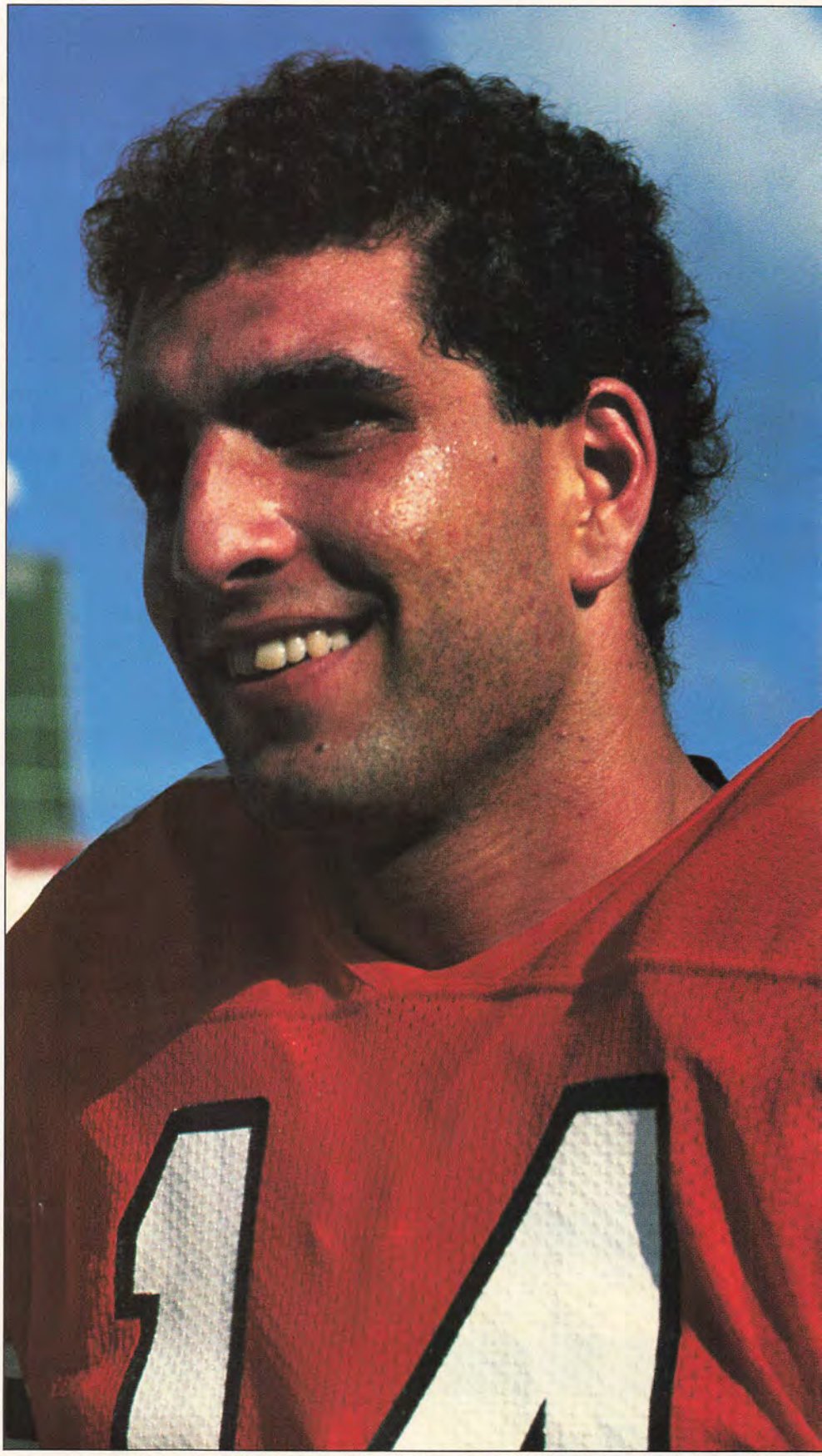
The line is thin and was pushed around last year. Ron Heller is a heavyweight scuffler at right tackle. Randy Grimes isn't bad at center. But elsewhere, the Bucs need immediate help. Ex-New York Jet Marvin Powell, an 11-year veteran tackle, started three games and limped to the injured list with a knee problem. Tackles Rob Taylor, who has been with six teams in six years, and 300-pounder J. D. Maarleveld have size and spirit, but they may not be quick enough to start at the NFL level. With Sean Farrell gone, the guard spots seem open to the strongest survivors. George Yarno and Rick Mallory head the contingent.

Kicker Donald Igwebuike has made 26 of 29 field-goal attempts from inside the 40 during his two years at Tampa Bay. His overall mark is 39 for 56, but he's only 8 for 16 between the 40- and 49-yard lines. Punter Eddie Garcia, an ex-Green Bay Packer, averaged 40.1 yards last year after sitting out the 1985 season.

Memories of Doug Williams, Kevin House, Jimmie Giles, Farrell and the other Bucs who were around during better times still haunt Tampa Bay—but Perkins is determined to reshape the Bucs his way. "We need to get bigger and stronger," he says. "And we need to acquire better speed people at some of the skill positions. We plan to strive for excellence in every area. What's past is past."

Yet the Bucs aren't likely to forget the dropped balls, missed blocks and secondary mixups. Creeping negativism may be Perkins' biggest problem in Tampa.

END



The Bucs expect Testaverde to make a quick impact with his $8 million arm.

PITTSBURGH

The Pittsburgh Steelers' running game had collapsed in the early weeks, and all around him Coach Chuck Noll saw more problems than solutions. Frank Pollard was limping on a gimpy knee. Walter Abercrombie was suffering from meningitis. Rich Erenberg was hobbled by a hip injury.

The solution, it turned out, was just a glance away on the Steelers' waiver wire. Unexpectedly, the name of Earnest Jackson turned up on the wire in the third week of the season. The Steelers made perhaps the quickest personnel move in club history. They got their little man, who rejected seven other teams for the promised chance to "play right away."

And did Earnest Jackson play. Snubbed by outspoken Buddy Ryan, Philadelphia Eagles coach who was responsible for the waiver, Jackson rushed for 910 yards. He was 90 yards short of what must be a unique feat: three consecutive 1000-yard seasons with three different teams.

"Earnest Jackson did it all. . . . He ran, he blocked, he did everything we asked of him. He became a tremendous asset to our football team."

A muscular 5-9, 208-pound runner who prefers to slash away between the tackles, Jackson gained 1,179 yards with San Diego in 1984 and made the Pro Bowl. Traded to Philadelphia for fourth- and eighth-round draft picks, he repeated with a 1,028-yard season. The Chargers' move was easily explainable. Jackson has average hands and wasn't considered a capable receiver coming out of the backfield in San Diego, a club that lives by the pass. But Ryan's move may have been too hasty in view of the Eagles' backfield shuffle that produced only eight rushing touchdowns by all ball carriers and 577 yards by the top runner, rookie Keith Byars.

"I don't have any idea why I was released," says Jackson. "It was a business decision. In San Diego, they got Tim Spencer and they were high on him. Then I went to Philadelphia, and they brought in Keith Byars and they were high on him. It's something I had to deal with, and I think I've dealt with it pretty well."

Strange personnel moves are all part of the cold business known as pro football, but Ryan's decision to cut Jackson is regarded by some as a coaching gaffe. Ryan preceded his move with a few choice insults. "I think he's a limited ball player," said Ryan. "I mean, it's pretty hard to run Anthony Toney if you've got to ask Jackson to block. And heck, anybody could gain 1000 yards if they ran the ball 1000 times."

Jackson's agent, Harold Lewis, said that with Ryan, "the handwriting was on the wall. Ryan said there were only three things he didn't like about Jackson. He couldn't run, he couldn't block and he couldn't catch. Right in the middle of a practice, Buddy said, 'Get him out of here. Trade him for a six-pack. It doesn't even have to be cold.' "

Noll couldn't have disagreed more after the Steelers finished a respectable seventh in rushing (138.9-yard average) despite a rash of injuries to the offensive line and an 0-3 start without Jackson. Before he arrived, the Steelers averaged 65.3 yards rushing. After that, they averaged 154.8 yards, which was more than coincidental. "Earnest Jackson did it all," says Noll. "He ran, he blocked, he did everything we asked of him. He became a tremendous asset to our football team."

Says Erenberg: "We were fortunate to pick him up. With Frank (Pollard) getting hurt, we needed someone to come in and take the pressure off Walter. Earnest is a lot like Frank. He's a straight-ahead runner and our system fits his style. You don't have to be a flashy guy around here."

In their Super Bowl years, the Steelers sprang Rocky Bleier on inside traps and Franco Harris on weak-side sweeps and misdirection plays. The cast of backs has changed but not the system, which stresses timing, angle blocks and linemen who can pull and trap. In the Steelers' scheme, Jackson wound up as the starting fullback alongside Abercrombie, a first-round pick in the 1982 draft.

"Earnest is a great back and he fits well into our offensive scheme," says Pollard. "He's a tough runner inside, and that's basically where the fullback gets his yards."

(continued)

Earnest Jackson seemed to have been a fall guy with the Eagles, but with the Steelers he rebounded right into the Pro Bowl.

Despite talk of a change, Mark Malone has a leg up on the QB job with the Steelers.

(Pittsburgh continued)

The Steelers finished with a 6-10 record, worst since Noll's 1-13 debut with a collection of castoffs and cripples in 1969. Yet the Steelers beat Detroit 27-17, drubbed the New York Jets 45-24, and barely lost to Kansas City 24-19 in the final three weeks to finish on a competitive high. They won five of their last nine games. Four losses were by an average of 4.5 points. Jackson rushed for 147, 101 and 55 yards in the final month and later made his second Pro Bowl as a replacement for injured Curt Warner of Seattle.

"I hit hard, that's my style," says Jackson. "I don't fumble because when I carry the ball, I carry it for the whole team. And I don't mind having my number called 30 times a game."

Jackson must have been dreaming of the 1970s, the era of power football. Actually, he averaged 16.6 carries in 13 games, including an adjustment period in the early weeks. His 4.2-yard average was 11th best in the NFL.

Nobody appreciated Jackson's contribution more than beleaguered quarterback Mark Malone. One of the oldest cliches in football is that a passing game feeds off a running game, the strength of one becoming the strength of the other. Malone didn't exactly burn up the league last year as a 50 percent passer who threw three more interceptions than touchdown passes (18-15). But in those final three games, when the team was playing, as center Mike Webster said, "Steeler football," Malone passed for 772 yards and was a 55 percent quarterback.

"It was a pleasure to see those guys work," Malone says, referring to the Steelers' backfield combo of Jackson and Abercrombie, who finished with 877 yards and a solid 4.1-yard average. "They have speed, talent and experience. They picked up a lot of yards that we weren't getting early on. And our offensive line responded, too."

Asked to describe Jackson's running style, offensive backfield coach Dick Hoak emphasized power. "Frank Pollard was a little quicker to the hole," Hoak says. "But part of that might be that Earnest was not exactly sure of what was going on at the start. He was a little more under control until he saw what was happening. And then he accelerated. He's got the strength to break some tackles."

Jackson was an eighth-round pick of the Chargers in the 1983 draft. He would have gone higher except for his size and a knee problem that limited his production to 178 yards as a senior at Texas A&M. Still, he totaled 1,539 yards, ninth-best in Aggie history, and had an impressive career average of 4.7 yards on 326 carries.

Used sparingly as a pro rookie, Jackson gained 1,179 yards in his second season, a Chargers' record. He led the AFC in rushing. Swapped to the Eagles, he repeated his 1000-yard feat. Then came the stunning waiver move and suddenly he was a Steeler.

"When you make the decision to separate someone from your football team, everyone wants to know why," says Noll. "Then, when those reasons are broadcast and written about and indelibly stamped on someone, they'll follow that person wherever he goes until he proves different."

Jackson grew up near Houston, where he was an all-around athlete. "He was outstanding," says Jimmy Keelling, Jackson's high school coach. "He did everything, played football, ran track. And he loved to be in school. He never missed class, never gave anybody any trouble. He came from a poor environment but he was always neatly dressed. He had a lot of pride."

As the Steelers soon learned, Jackson remains the same dependable, likable individual. Assuming that Jackson and Abercrombie take care of business on running plays, the Steelers still need a bigger season from Malone and more consistency on defense, especially upfront.

In an off-season marked by a shake-up in the scouting and coaching offices, the Steelers hired Joe Greene, a living legend and perhaps the best lineman in the club's 55-year history, to coach the defensive line. Aides Jon Kolb and Dennis Fitzgerald will handle the special teams and a new computer system. The Steelers flopped on special teams last year, allowing averages of 10.7 yards and 24.3 yards on punt and kickoff returns. The Steelers' return teams averaged only 8.6 and 19.8 yards.

With the return of injured guard John Rienstra (broken foot), the club's No. 1 pick last year, the blocking line is solid from tackle to tackle. It includes eight-time Pro Bowl center Webster, guard Craig Wolfley, tackles Ray Pinney and Tunch Ilkin, and at tight end, Preston Gothard.

Outside, Malone's receivers include flanker Louis Lipps (38 catches for 590 yards) and 13-year veteran John Stallworth (34 for 466). An interesting backup is 6-6 Weegie Thompson (17 for 191 and five touchdowns), one of the league's tallest wide-outs.

The defense, once one of the best in football, gave up 30 or more points in four games and 336 for the season. But the unit, which features Pro Bowl linebacker Mike Merriweather and underrated linebacker Bryan Hinkle outside and steady Robin Cole inside in a 3-4 alignment, also held opponents to 17 or fewer points seven times. That is championship defense.

The secondary needs help. Lupe Sanchez,

(continued on page 194)

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HOUSTON

Final games usually mean little to the Houston Oilers, except to mark the start of another dreary off-season and an end to the weekly barrage of insults at the Astrodome. But last season was different. What made it different was the friendly competition between 5-9 speed receivers Drew Hill and rookie Ernest Givins for the Oilers' pass-catching title.

Hill, an eight-year veteran obtained from the Los Angeles Rams in 1985, caught five passes against the Buffalo Bills to finish with 65 catches for 1,112 yards. Givins had two receptions for a 61-catch, 1,062-yard season. The Oilers not only dominated the Bills 16-7 but walked off the field with glowing optimism. The fans shared the same giddy feeling, mostly from watching Hill and Givins work their magic during another 5-11 season.

"I've said it before and I'll say it again. . . . When our line gives Warren Moon time to throw, he's better than any quarterback in the league."

"Having Ernest here took some of the pressure off me," says Hill, who has caught 129 passes for 2,281 yards in two Oiler seasons. "I don't have to think about making the big play as often. He had a good season for a rookie. He made a lot of great catches."

In retrospect, Givins was the steal of last year's draft. After being passed over by 22 other clubs, he was snapped up in the second round by the Oilers, who needed another deep receiver to minimize heavy coverage that Hill had been attracting. Houston still had Tim Smith, a possession-type receiver, who had back-to-back 1000-yard seasons in 1983 and 1984. But a lot of Smith's catches came when the Oilers were playing catch-up during 2-14 and 3-13 seasons. Smith was traded to San Diego a few days before the draft for a 1988 draft choice.

Givins was originally projected as a third-rounder. But a spectacular workout for the national scouting combine at the Senior Bowl projected him as a low-first, high-second prospect.

"When a guy's not thinking and he's just reacting, speed and quickness mean a lot," says Oilers receivers coach Milt Jackson. "He (Givins) gives us another dimension. Every time he touches the ball, it could mean a touchdown."

It is this ability to score from far out, the so-called cheap touchdown, that gives Houston hope for the years ahead. All of the statistics indicate that this could be the season the Oilers finally come together, after a 16-57 record over the past five years and a 4-24 mark over the same period in the unpredictable AFC Central.

The offense, directed by Canadian football legend Warren Moon for the third year, jumped from 24th (290.8-yard average, 284 points) to 16th (321.8 yards, 274 points). The passing attack went from 19th (192.6-yard average) to 13th (215.6). The Oilers also improved on defense, going from 27th overall (384.7 yards, 412 points) to 13th (314.6, 329 points).

"I've said it before and I'll say it again," says Hill. "When our line gives Warren Moon time to throw, he's better than any quarterback in the league."

For once, the $5.5 million quarterback has truly gifted receivers with whom to work. Yet there is some speculation that the Oilers' management, which last year traded blue-chip rookie quarterback Jim Everett to the Rams, isn't content to continue with Moon. Last year, plagued by injuries to one of the league's highest-paid lines, he threw 26 interceptions, most in the league, and was sacked 41 times.

Moon, who also rushed 42 times for 157 yards on impromptu scrambles, only contributed to the saga of the NFL's most puzzling team as a notorious in-and-out passer. In the fifth week, he threw for 398 yards on 21-for-38 passing in a loss to the Detroit Lions. But in the 13th week, he went 5 for 23, with four interceptions and only 68 yards, in a three-point loss to Cleveland.

Whether they're working with Moon, backup Oliver Luck or a new face at quarterback, Hill and Givins will be driving off the line, making those nifty escape moves and getting open. Both are 4.4-second sprinter-types. On a good day, Givins might

(continued)

With 4.4 speed in the 40, Ernest Givins of the Oilers is not your average run of wide receiver.

33

← *Houston wants the Mike Rozier of Nebraska fame when he averaged 7.16 yards per carry.*

(Houston continued)

be able to turn it on and cover 40 yards in 4.35 seconds.

"My intention all along was to take some pressure off Drew," says Givins, known as Spinner because of his habit of spinning rather than spiking a football. "Drew Hill can go deep, and I can take the pressure off him and he can do the same for me. When you have a double threat, it's hard to double-cover. And when I catch the ball on the run, it's time for me to score."

Givins has always had to push himself because of his size. Raised in St. Petersburg, Fla., he almost followed his father, Ernest Sr., into pro baseball. The elder Givins was an outfielder in the Cleveland Indians' chain. Young Givins changed his mind about baseball after facing Dwight Gooden's fastball in a high school game.

It was Howard Schnellenberger, the Louisville coach, who awarded Givins a football scholarship after his two-year track career at Northeast Oklahoma Junior College. Schnellenberger also lobbied to get Givins a bid to the Senior Bowl, where he became MVP. What the Oilers soon liked about Givins, too, was his free-spirited personality.

"I'm always singing," says Givins. "In the kitchen, the car, the bedroom, every place but the huddle. A girl once told me that I do the Whitney Houston and Michael Jackson things much better than even they do. My closest friends call me 'Three-Time,' which is short for three-time Grammy winner."

Hill was a 12th-round pick of the Rams in 1979, the 36th receiver and 328th player chosen. "I signed him," says Rams administrator Jack Faulkner. "Great hands, great speed. An excellent player. I hated to see him go."

During six years of running deep routes with the Rams, a team that prefers two five-yard runs to one 10-yard pass, Hill had only 60 catches. But his per-catch average was a whopping 22.5 yards. He led the league in 1984 with a 27.9-yard average after missing the 1983 season with a herniated disc. The Rams sent Hill to the Oilers after a 1984 trade for Cleveland's Ron Brown, a bigger, even faster receiver, who won a gold medal as a relay sprinter in the 1984 Olympics.

"When I was with the Rams," says Hill, "my friends would always tell me how I should get more playing time. But they wanted to develop Ron Brown. If I made a big catch, I still might not get back into a game because they wanted to get Ron some experience. And since we ran the ball so often with Eric Dickerson, there were times when I'd get open, but we wouldn't throw the ball. John Robinson (the Rams' coach) doesn't really like to throw the ball that much.

"I was shocked at first when Coach Robinson called and said he was committed to Ron Brown. Now, thinking it all over, I'm happy here. When I was with the Rams, we were expected to win eight to 10 games every season. The Oilers haven't been used to winning. But now the guys have gotten confident. And if we continue to build that confidence, we can win a lot of games."

At Georgia Tech, Hill was a great kickoff returner (28.1-yard average on 84 returns), as well as a big-play receiver. But his 5-9 size and infrequent catches in traffic scared off some of the scouts.

"Size doesn't count," says Hill. "It's what's inside a person, what's in his heart. I've got to have determination, since I'm a small guy. Even with talent, you still have to have determination to prove yourself, day in and day out, if you want to keep your job. The more catches I make, the more confident I become. And there's more to being a receiver than just catching long passes. Since I played with the Rams, and we basically ran long routes, people expected me to catch deep passes."

Despite the upbeat passing attack, Houston finished at the bottom of the AFC Central for the fourth straight year. Part of the problem was turnovers (31 interceptions, 12 lost fumbles). Part was penalties (120, fourth-highest total in the league). And part was erratic play on both sides of the ball. The Oilers' defense accounted for only 32 sacks, 16 forced fumbles and 16 interceptions. And there was a crazy series of events: tight end Chris Dressel cut his hand in a fight with guard Eric Moran; Moon criticized Coach Jerry Glanville for the team's suspicious play selection; guard Kent Hill, another ex-Ram, dropped a 25-pound weight on his foot; Glanville himself showed up for a press conference wearing a black and white striped shirt, ecstatic that "after 15 weeks, we finally had a bad call go our way"; and offensive line coach Bill Walsh and quarterbacks coach Gary Huff were fired 16 days after the season.

Defensively, the Oilers lean on Ray Childress.

There was also a string of injuries to the offensive line, which lost guard Mike Munchak (knee surgery) for 10 games, center Jim Romano (knee ligaments) for seven and tackle Harvey Salem forever after a feud with Glanville (Salem was traded to Detroit). The Oilers also were without running backs Mike Rozier and Butch Woolfolk part of the season and wound up with a lowly 3.5-yard rushing average and a 106.3-yard game average. Altogether, Houston starters missed a total of 59 games because of injuries.

"Some people say we're terrible," says Woolfolk. "Some people say we're average. I think we're a good team that just loses all the time." A funny guy, Butch Woolfolk.

Yet there's nothing funny about the need for a sack specialist on defense and a better run-pass mix on offense. Young Ray Childress, a 6-6 left end and the club's No. 1 pick in 1985, led the Oilers with only five sacks. Lacking a consistent pass rush, the Oilers stole only 16 passes for a modest two-year total of 31. The defense is young and without an acknowledged leader. Inside linebacker John Grimsley, a sixth-round pick in 1984, has a knack for finding the ball. Childress and right end Richard Byrd, a second-rounder in 1985, have fine potential, and young corners Steve Brown and Patrick Allen showed flashes of excellence. Strong safety Keith Bostic hits a ton, as the scouts say.

The Oilers must simply learn how to win and avoid what has become a laughable tradition of losing streaks. Houston lost eight straight last year, five and four straight in 1985, 10 straight in 1984, 10 straight in 1983 and seven straight in 1982.

The most solid part of the Oilers is their kicking game. Punter Lee Johnson averaged 41.2 yards and spiraled 26 kicks dead inside the 20. Placekicker Tony Zendejas, obtained from Washington for a fifth-round pick, made his first seven field goals and 14 of his first 16. He finished 22 for 27. Three of his misses were from 53 yards or longer.

Houston's roster reads like a who's who of college All-Americans: Dean Steinkuhler . . . Bruce Matthews . . . Ray Childress . . . Richard Johnson . . . Allen Pinkett . . . Mike Rozier . . . Mike Munchak . . . Butch Woolfolk. Thus, the heat has been on Glanville and General Manager Ladd Herzeg, the man who hired him as well as predecessor Hugh Campbell, fired in late 1985 after coaching 30 games. Glanville has a five-year contract.

Over the next two seasons the Houston coach had better produce.

END

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(San Francisco continued)

off-season with hopes of improving both units. Norb Hecker, the linebackers coach, is now an administrative assistant to Walsh, who hasn't been happy with the play of the linebackers.

Bill McPherson, defensive line coach for the last eight years, will coach the linebackers. Fred vonAppen, who had been in charge of mediocre special teams, will coach the defensive line.

With hopes of improving the linebackers, the 49ers traded for Tampa Bay linebacker Keith Browner during the off-season. Browner and Charles Haley, who led the team in sacks (12) as a rookie at defensive end, will join a veteran linebacking corps of Milt McColl, Riki Ellison, Jim Fahnhorst and Keena Turner. Ellison had 77 tackles last year.

With improvement from the linebackers, San Francisco could again have one of the NFL's best defensive units.

"That's where we hope to improve—with the linebackers," Walsh says. "We'll be moving people around, trying different things. Maybe it's just a matter of finding the right combination."

Walsh can't complain about the performance of the secondary. The 39 interceptions and 578 return yards set team records. The 49ers also tied Kansas City for the most takeaways—49—and returned five interceptions for touchdowns.

In his first full season at free safety, Ronnie Lott tied the club record with 10 interceptions and was a consensus All-Pro. Strong safety Carlton Williamson led the team in tackles with 78. Cornerbacks Tim McKyer and Don Griffin have plenty to look forward to after starting as rookies and combining for nine interceptions. Griffin was NFC Defensive Rookie of the Year and ranked second in the NFC with a 9.9-yard punt-return average, including a 76-yard touchdown against Atlanta.

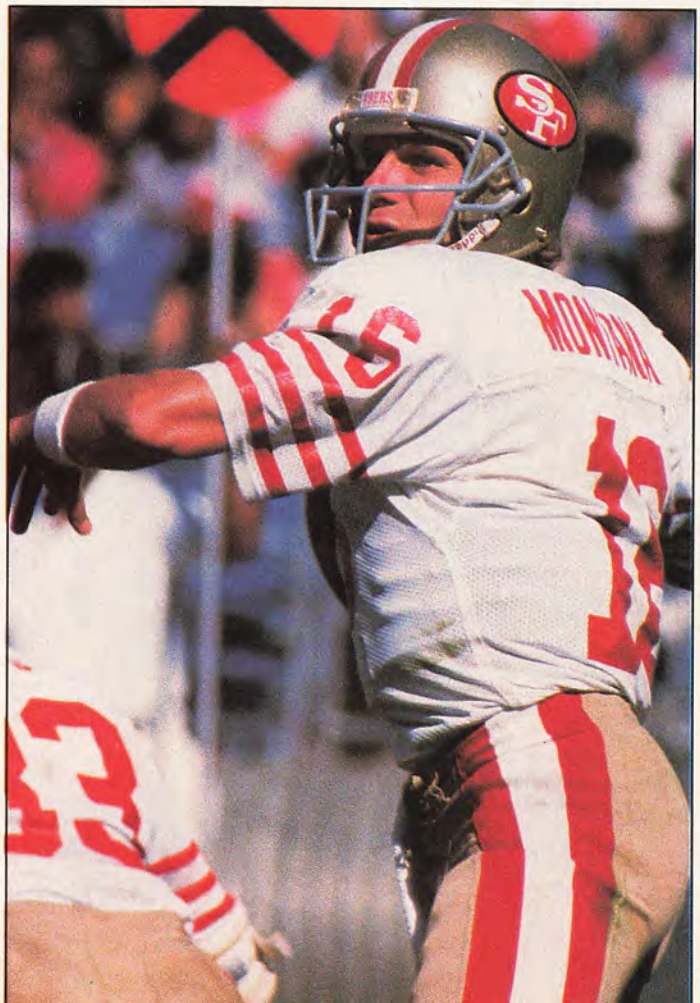
The line has Jeff Stover and Dwaine Board at the ends and Michael Carter at nose tackle. Walsh believes Carter will soon be recognized as one of the NFL's best.

Max Runager averaged 41.6 yards on 83 punts. Placekicker Ray Wersching was accurate if not spectacular. He hit 41 of 42 extra points and was perfect on field goals of 30 yards or less, but he made slightly less than 50 percent of his attempts from beyond the 40.

The 49ers did have a long list of medical problems during the off-season, although each player to have surgery will return by training camp. Clark and Lott each had arthroscopic knee surgery; Ayers had his knee and shoulder scoped; nose tackle Manu Tuiasosopo had ligaments reconstructed in his left thumb. Keith Fahnhorst had a swollen bursa removed from his left elbow, and linebacker Todd Shell had calcium removed from his quadriceps.

Still, with the team that Walsh has returning, the 49ers could become the NFL's first team to win three Super Bowls in the 1980s.

END



Productive years by running back Roger Craig (above) and quarterback Joe Montana (left) are needed if the 49ers are to be considered a Super Bowl prospect.

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NEW ENGLAND

When Raymond Berry took over from Ron Meyer as coach of the New England Patriots midway through the 1984 season, he was asked about the development of wide receiver Stanley Morgan. Before Meyer became coach, Berry had been with the Patriots as an assistant for two and a half years. As usual, Berry was short and to the point.

"He's about where he was when I left," Berry said. Clearly, it was not meant as a compliment. Since Berry hardly ever criticizes a player in print, it was a telling observation.

And one that Morgan knew to be true.

Under Meyer, Morgan was miserable. He had been one of the National Football League's leading receivers. He had averaged nearly 23 yards per catch in his first five years in the league.

"To be honest, I was getting to the point where I really didn't care what was happening," Morgan told an interviewer last season. "But that changed when Coach Berry got here."

From 1979 to 1981, Morgan had consecutive seasons of 44, 45 and 44 receptions. In Meyer's first season, that number dipped to 28. Although Morgan did catch 58 passes in 1983, his per-catch average dipped from more than 20 yards in each of his first six seasons to 14.9 yards that year.

Morgan was not happy and his attitude showed it. He became somewhat surly, and there were more than occasional meetings between the disgruntled wide receiver and the coaching staff and front office. At one point, there was talk of trading Morgan to the Los Angeles Raiders.

In May 1984, Morgan had one last talk with Meyer and another long discussion with General Manager Patrick Sullivan. In that conversation, Morgan spoke of his long career in football, starting with his glory days of high school in Easley, S.C., and the University of Tennessee on through his years with the Patriots.

"It seemed that it didn't matter with the (Meyer) coaching staff," Morgan says. "From the beginning, it was their way or the highway. It's got to be a 50-50 relationship and I didn't feel that it was. It was more like a dictatorship."

By mid-1984, Patriots management had fired Meyer even though the team had a winning record. No one could have been happier than Stanley Morgan when Berry was named coach.

"To be honest, I was getting to the point where I really didn't care what was happening," Morgan told an interviewer last season. "But that changed when Coach Berry got here. He still had confidence in me when others didn't, and that made all the difference in the world."

In 1985, his first full season under Berry, Morgan caught 39 passes, but more important, his yards-per-pass average approached that of pre-Meyer days: 19.5 yards. And the Patriots were a Super Bowl team.

In 1986, Morgan caught a career-high 84 passes for 1,491 yards (17.7 average) and 10 touchdowns, numbers that made him the third-leading receiver in the American Football Conference and earned him his first Pro Bowl appearance since 1981, when he averaged 23.4 yards per catch.

Morgan's success in 1986 was due in a large part to his increased role in Berry's offense and to a decision he made to lose a few pounds in the previous off-season to relieve hamstring injuries he had suffered the previous year. Before last season, Morgan also had surgery to correct a mangled joint in one of his fingers.

"A lot of people don't think the little finger is that important," Morgan says. "But you've got to be able to catch the ball without a lot of pain."

The weight loss came at the suggestion of assistant coach Harold Jackson, once a teammate of Morgan's on the Patriots who was the team's receivers coach last year.

"We talked a lot about weight," Jackson says. "The older you get, the better off

(continued)

Stanley Morgan has prospered under Raymond Berry, reaching new highs in catches (84) and pass-receiving yardage (1,491).

The Patriots count on more poised performances by Tony Eason (above) in '87, as well as Don Blackmon (right) coming back to repeat his fine all-around season at linebacker.

(New England continued)

you'll be if you can lose some weight. Stanley got down to 174, which, I think, was his weight when he came into the league."

Morgan says: "I was getting a lot of hamstring pulls, and I had to find a way to guard against them. So I started working out in track to get back in shape. A few pounds may not sound like much, but I felt much fresher and certainly faster."

Berry says Morgan is "31 going on 21."

"When you get to be my age, you work at it," Morgan says. "You eat the right food. You don't drink or smoke. You watch the other receivers, including those on your own team, because you might see them make a little move, and you say, 'Hey, that might work for me.' You look for every edge you can get."

In the past season, the Patriots had few edges to take advantage of. Morgan caught more passes and gained more yardage than he ever did, mostly because New England had major problems running the football. Their primary backs, Craig James, Tony Collins and Mosi Tatupu, averaged only 2.6 yards per carry among them. The running game finished last in the NFL.

There were legitimate reasons for the problems. The biggest were injuries and retirement. All-Pro guard John Hannah decided not to come back, and tight end Lin Dawson, one of the team's best blockers in 1985, was hurt in the 1986 Super Bowl game and had to sit out last season. When tackle Steve Moore, the team's best offensive lineman, suffered a broken ankle early in the year, the Patriots were in deep trouble on offense.

It was more of the same on defense. Defensive end Ken Sims was lost for the season after only four games. Linebacker Andre Tippett missed five games. Linebacker Steve Nelson was an early casualty. Even linebacker Lawrence McGrew missed a couple of games. At one point, the Patriots were so banged up defensively, Berry switched from a 3-4 defense to 4-3 in the second half of a game against New Orleans because he had run out of healthy linebackers.

Still, despite all the problems, the Patriots managed to limp into the playoffs, thanks in large part to quarterback Tony Eason, who finally showed the confidence and poise that made him a No. 1 draft choice four years ago. Eason was the AFC's third-leading passer, completing 61.6 percent of his throws, with 19 touchdown passes and only 10 interceptions. His backup was savvy veteran Steve Grogan, who wanted to play more but understood Berry's thinking in going with the younger man, his quarterback of the future.

Grogan didn't sulk. In fact, he called all the plays from the sidelines for Eason, the only quarterback in the league to perform that function. Grogan also got in enough games to throw 102 passes, including nine for touchdowns, and only two interceptions.

Morgan obviously was the favorite target, but Collins had 77 catches out of the backfield, and Irving Fryar caught 43 passes, including a Hail Mary pass, tipped into the end zone by Morgan, to beat the Rams 30-28 as time expired.

The offensive line was a major problem, but there is talent and depth in the unit. Left tackle Brian Holloway is a three-time Pro Bowler. Center Pete Brock is a veteran of 11 seasons with the Patriots. Moore, a 305-pounder, should recover from his fracture and return at right tackle. Over the winter, the Patriots traded second-, seventh- and ninth-round draft choices to Tampa Bay for guard-tackle Sean Farrell. Ron Wooten and Paul Fairchild were the 1986 guards, and Bruce Armstrong of the University of Louisville was the Patriots' first draft choice this year.

On the defensive line, two of the Patriots' three regulars were starting at their positions for the first time. Rookie end Brent Williams replaced Sims and will give him a battle at left end. Toby Williams, after three years at end, started at nose tackle and had an average season. Garin Veris started at right end and led the team with 11 sacks. With Sims returning and the Patriots expecting often-injured nose tackle Mike Ruth to make a contribution, the team should have a much improved line.

A comeback by Craig James wouldn't surprise.

The Patriots also hope all their injured linebackers can come back. Tippett, who likes to think of himself as the Lawrence Taylor of the AFC, is the key man in the unit. Despite missing five games, he finished with nine and a half sacks and had 63 tackles. In his sixth year, Don Blackmon had an outstanding season at outside linebacker. He was the team's fifth-leading tackler, third-leading sacker, had two pass knockdowns, caused three fumbles and recovered two more.

In the secondary, the Patriots got solid performances from veteran Raymond Clayborn at right corner, Ronnie Lippett at left corner, Roland James at strong safety and Fred Marion at free safety. That unit was together for all but two regular season games. Lippett was second in the AFC in interceptions with eight, and Marion led the team in tackles with 122 and had nine pass deflections.

Kicker Tony Franklin had a fine year, making 32 of 41 field-goal attempts and 44 of 45 extra points. He went to the Pro Bowl after setting a team record with 14 straight field goals. Punter Rich Camarillo was third in the AFC with a 42.1-yard average. Sixteen of his kicks were inside the 20.

Fryar was the main punt returner, averaging 10.5 yards, and Stephen Starring handled kickoff returns, averaging 22.3 yards. Both are game-breaking players with terrific speed who should make significant contributions as regulars and special teamers.

Everywhere you look, the Patriots seem to have highly talented players.

Says Berry: "We have awesome capabilities. That's the challenge ahead of us: to get performance out of what we've got."

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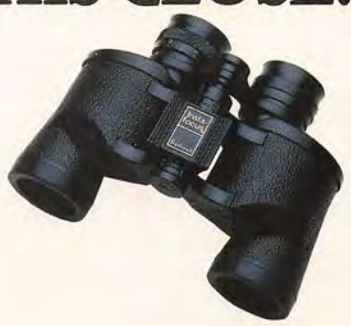

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Tony D: Man on A Mission

Dorsett has in mind a comeback of sorts.

by Jim Dent

Last April, Tony Dorsett reached the magical age. He turned 33, which also happens to be his jersey number with the Dallas Cowboys.

To be 33 and still running in the NFL is to be swift and elusive and to have avoided injury. It means Dorsett has run through a paper shredder without needing stitches. It means that, until last February at least, he had escaped the surgeon.

With the exception of a broken toe in 1979 (caused by a mirror, which he accidently dropped on it), Dorsett's career had been injury-free. In 1986, however, he sprained both knees and his right ankle en route to a sub-1000-yard year, his first during a full NFL season.

By last December, Dorsett's knees were so sore that he didn't know which way to limp.

"If you play this long, it's finally going to catch up with you," he says. "It was a tough year. I hope I don't have to go through any more like it."

Last year it wasn't unusual for Dorsett to spend most of the day in the training room, wondering if his football career was over.

Remarkably, he missed only three full games and led the team in rushing with 748 yards. When the season ended, he was still the starting tailback and the centerpiece of the Dallas running game, despite the presence of Herschel Walker.

But when the season was over, Dorsett faced the prospect of double knee surgery.

"It's pretty scary when it hits you for the first time that your career might be over," Dorsett says. "A bad knee can end your career before you even get up from the operating table."

Doctors performed arthroscopic surgery on both knees, cleaning calcium deposits and bone chips from the joints. After making four small incisions and probing the left knee with a surgical light, Dr. Pat Evans decided that Dorsett's anterior cruciate ligament didn't need to be repaired.

If it had, Dorsett's career would have been in jeopardy. Few players rebound from such an operation at age 33. The anterior cruciate is the most critical of the four knee ligaments and, when torn, never regains full strength.

"The doctors say it's healing on its own," Tony says. "That's quite a relief."

Beginning his 11th season with the Cowboys, Dorsett has reached a territory few runners have explored. The average career expectancy for an NFL running back is three years. It is especially rare when a small running back (5-11, 185 pounds) lasts so long.

But, at 33, Dorsett is among the NFL's oldest running backs. He is two months older than Chicago's Walter Payton, even though Payton has played two more years, and four days younger than Kansas City's Mike Pruitt.

Currently fourth on the all-time rushing list, Dorsett needs 733 yards to pass Jim Brown, who is second behind Payton. Catching Payton will be more difficult, since Dorsett is 4,613 yards behind the NFL leader.

More than setting records, Dorsett says there is still much to prove in the final years of his career. Erasing the memory of last season is the first priority.

"I am on somewhat of a mission," Dorsett says. "When you lose your respectability, you want to get it back as soon as you can.

"No doubt, there will be a lot of speculation on whether or not I can come back. But I want to come back as an individual, and I want us to come back as a team. It was an awful year for us last season. I have a lot of pride in what I do, and I want to see us get back on top. That is the most important thing."

After 20 straight winning seasons, the Cowboys finished 7-9 in 1986, missing the playoffs for only the second time in 12 years. The uncharacteristically poor showing raised doubts about the team's future and, perhaps, signaled the beginning of the end for Dorsett.

"Right now, I don't feel old," he says. "But I still need to take a couple of licks and see how my knees are holding up. I guess it's really a matter of conditioning. Age, after all, is just a chronological number. Eventually, though, my time will come and I'll have to move on. My contract will be over when I'm 35. Ask me then how I feel about the future of my career."

Dorsett's season of injuries began on opening night, when he twisted his ankle against the New York Giants. Four weeks later, he was hurdling a pile of Atlanta Falcons when a helmet struck his left knee.

"That lick could very easily have ended my

(continued)

With knees healed, Dorsett should take over second place in NFL all-time rushing yardage.

(Tony Dorsett continued)

career," he says. "But the guy didn't get a good solid hit. My knee popped out and then ricocheted back into place."

Dorsett's right knee was injured against the Giants on Nov. 2, when he carried a screen pass to the New York 6-yard line. The play could have set up a tying field goal in the last minute of the game. But tackle Phil Pozderac was flagged for holding.

"I was actually trying to protect my left knee when I hurt my right knee," Dorsett recalls. "I guess you could say I got a lot of soreness out of those New York games."

Dorsett has an acute fear of the surgical knife. Late last season, when the subject of surgery was broached, he sounded like a man on his way to the gas chamber.

But with the operation behind him, Tony says he feels like a new man. No longer does he carry the creaking soreness in both knees and the fear that his next collision will be his last.

"As far as range of motion, my knees feel better than they did all last season," he says. "I had a tough time last year. While I was trying to protect one knee, I hurt the other one. Very few people knew what kind of pain I was continually going through."

Except for the strike-shortened 1982 season, Dorsett had the fewest carries (184) in his career. Much of the load was shifted to Herschel Walker, who, against Philadelphia late in the season, had 292 combined yards, and, for the year, rushed for nearly as many yards (737) as Dorsett.

Walker, who became the starting fullback in the 12th week of the season, will line up there again this year. Dorsett will be the starting tailback in what many have called the Cowboys' Dream Backfield.

But for Coach Tom Landry, the Dream Backfield has become something of a nightmare. Dorsett has a territorial interest in the Dallas offense. He doesn't want to take a backseat to Walker or anyone else.

"I hope they don't limit me," Dorsett says. "I took that role last year because of injuries. What I hope they do is utilize my talent. Don't let it go to waste. If we are to regain respectability, we will have to use people. I still think we have a great nucleus of talent."

But Dorsett says he doesn't want to sound jealous. He says his beef isn't with Walker but with management, for paying Walker $5 million for five years.

"Everywhere I go people want to know if I'm getting along with Herschel now," Dorsett says. "I've told people that I have never had a personal problem with Herschel. It sounds like I was at his throat, or he was at mine. It's ridiculous. From day one we hit it off great. He is one of the better guys I have ever met."

But how they coexist in the Dallas backfield may decide Dorsett's future. Landry, at last, may need two footballs to keep the Cowboys' offense running.

END

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JETS

Leave it to Mike Hickey, the man who drafted him, to describe his catches. "They're just Al Toon-istic," says the New York Jets' director of player personnel.

And just what does that mean? Conjure up a picture of a svelte and swift receiver racing to the corner of the end zone, leaping high, plucking the ball out of the air, doing a half gainer on the way down, and still holding on for a touchdown. And make sure there are only 12 seconds left on the clock.

All season long, Al Toon made that sort of catch for the Jets and was amply rewarded for it. He was an All-Pro, Pro Bowl starter and his team's Most Valuable Player. He was second in the AFC in receptions, behind Todd Christensen, and third overall in the NFL, with 85 catches for 1,176 yards, a Jets' season record.

"He's always a threat to make the big play. I throw a 20-yard pass, and all of a sudden, it's a 60-yard touchdown with him breaking tackles."

But you won't see Toon resting on his laurels.

"I guess you could say I had a pretty good year," he says, "but I also know I could have done better. And I will. Just think about it. I've played only two years. I'm still learning our offense, and I'm still learning how to deal with defenses. No question, I definitely can do better."

Of course, the Jets were ecstatic with Toon's performance. "He's very gifted," says quarterback Ken O'Brien. "He's always a threat to make the big play. I throw a 20-yard pass, and all of a sudden, it's a 60-yard touchdown with him breaking tackles."

"Unbelievable," says wide receiver Wesley Walker. "He's a great athlete with an uncanny knack for breaking tackles."

Toon drew a lot of the double coverage Walker received in previous years, allowing Walker to have an outstanding season, with a 20.7-yard average (on 49 catches for 1,016 yards) and 12 touchdowns, including an 83-yard scoring pass play. His 24 points against Miami were a league high last year.

Two years ago, the Jets were not all that delighted with Toon. They had made him the 10th pick in the first round after his spectacular career at Wisconsin (he set three school career records). But Toon, a bright young fellow with a stubborn streak, held out in the summer of 1985 and did not sign until after the first regular-season game. He was the longest first-round holdout, but his decision to stick to his principles earned him a four-year, $1.8 million deal.

The Jets knew they had gotten their money's worth in Toon's first game. He had three receptions even though he had missed an entire training camp and was in practice only four days before his first game.

"I never had any doubt I could do it," Toon says, "but it definitely took awhile for me to feel comfortable out there. The older guys tried to help me, but I needed to learn a whole lot more. Everything that happened seemed like a first-time thing. I couldn't anticipate a lot of the situations, so I had to free-lance it."

Still, his first NFL reception was a 50-yarder that set up a touchdown. When he finally broke into the starting lineup, in the Jets' 10th game, he caught 10 passes for 156 yards. In his first playoff game in 1985, he caught nine passes for 93 yards against Super Bowl-bound New England.

Toon is no ordinary athlete. He attended Wisconsin, a long way from his home in Newport News, Va., only because the Badger coaching staff had enough foresight to allow him to run track instead of participating in spring football. Just to make sure they wouldn't forget, he distributed copies of the agreement to a number of people, including his uncle, the principal of his high school.

Toon ran the high hurdles in the 1984 Olympic trials and was a long and triple jumper for the Badgers. He also had interesting extracurricular activities. He took dance class to improve his flexibility, studied t'ai chi, an oriental discipline involving slow movement and meditation, and worked part-time as a volunteer at a Madison day-care center.

(continued)

A pirouette to position himself for a catch comes easy for All-Pro Al Toon after lessons in ballet.

Sure-handed Johnny Hector enjoyed his best of four seasons rushing—pass catching, too.

(New York Jets continued)

"In ballet, you learn your body and body position in relation to the ground and space," Toon says. "They make you get into weird positions and maintain your balance. It boils down to control and awareness of your body. I think it helps me to run with balance after I get the football. I find myself doing some of the ballet stances unconsciously. Sometimes out on the field, I'll notice I'm standing in first position or second position."

But you'll never hear any of Toon's teammates making snide remarks about his balletic training. They know he has no fear of anything on a football field, particularly those dangerous routes over the middle.

"I'm a man and I know I'm a man," Toon says. "I can wear pink. Only real men can wear pink. I liked studying ballet; it helped me develop senses I didn't know existed."

"He's graceful at everything he does," says Wisconsin receivers coach Fred Jackson, "but he's as tough as anybody. You've got to take a cheap shot at Al to hurt him. He knows his body mechanics and how to get in position to take a hit."

Toon is a big man (6-4, 205) with a large wingspan and an incredible 43-inch vertical leap. "He can catch in as big an area as a tight end's," says Jets tight end Mickey Shuler. "Al has a knack of getting his body to the ball. The key is to catch balls other people can't, and to catch them time and time again. He does it."

Toon's production dropped off somewhat late last season, when the Jets struggled after a brilliant 10-1 start. In fact, Toon did not have a touchdown catch over the final six weeks of the regular season, but he did make an 11-yard scoring catch to help the Jets beat Kansas City in the wild-card playoff game.

The Jets' late fade—they were eliminated by Cleveland—was a great mystery to Toon. "I wish I knew why it happened," he says. "Maybe we could have done something about it. At one point, we had won nine straight and people were expecting a lot from us. But then the injuries hit, and that always makes a big difference."

The injuries.

The Jets were clearly a crippled team down the stretch. Two of their most valuable defenders, nose tackle Joe Klecko and linebacker Lance Mehl, were out a combined total of 14¾ games. Right tackle Reggie McElroy missed eight games. Two other dominating defenders, end Mark Gastineau and tackle Marty Lyons, played hurt most of the season and were mere shadows of their healthy selves.

All those players remain question marks for 1987. Klecko and McElroy played too soon after surgery and blew out their knees in their first game back. They're not expected back for the beginning of the season. Neither is Mehl. Lyons had surgery on both his shoulders, and Gastineau had serious knee and stomach problems that may slow him again.

The Jets also are still trying to figure out what happened to O'Brien, who was the hottest signal caller in the NFL during that nine-game winning streak but faded down the stretch and was replaced by reserve Pat Ryan in the wild-card game.

There was one report in *Sports Illustrated,* later denied by the Jets, that O'Brien had a tired arm. Another theory was that O'Brien and Coach Joe Walton did not get along, and the quarterback lost his confidence playing for a coach he felt was turning him into a robot.

Whatever the reason, O'Brien threw 14 interceptions in his last six regular-season games, although he had five touchdowns. When Ryan was injured early in the playoff game against the Browns, O'Brien came on and played well. But when the Jets simply needed a single first down in the final minutes of regulation play to clinch the victory, O'Brien couldn't get it done. The Browns rallied and won 23-20 in double overtime.

"I was not surprised by the quarterback switch," Toon says. "Ken needed a break to get himself back together. Coach Walton realized that, and he did what he felt he had to do. There was no dissension on the team about it. Heck, we were all pressing at that point, and the change won us a playoff game. I just hope Ken can get back on track. He's a great young quarterback and we're going to need him."

A fine receiving corps awaits O'Brien's return. Toon, Walker and Shuler combined for 203 catches. Shuler had 69 receptions.

Running back Freeman McNeil had another promising season haunted by injuries; he still led the team with 856 yards rushing. McNeil's backup, Johnny Hector, was second with 605 yards and eight touchdowns.

In the offensive line, guards Ted Banker and Dan Alexander, who is going into his 11th year, tackle Jim Sweeney and center Joe Fields are slated starters. Gordon King is expected to fill in until McElroy's return.

In the defensive line, the Jets were pleased with end Barry Bennett, who made 48 solo tackles, 22 assists and three and one half sacks. Nose tackle Tom Baldwin will fill in for the recovering Klecko.

Linebacker Kyle Clifton led the team with 174 tackles. He'll be joined by Bob Crable and second-year Kevin McArthur, whose playoff efforts impressed his employers. Mehl is not expected to return until October. His replacement is a question mark.

A dependable secondary returns. Free safety Harry Hamilton was second on the team in tackles with 113. Strong safety Lester Lyles tied with Crable for third with 112. Cornerbacks are Jerry Holmes and Russell Carter.

Kicker Pat Leahy had another outstanding season, hitting 16 of 19 field goals, including 10 of 10 inside the 40, and all 44 of his extra points. Jennings had his usual consistent year punting, averaging 39.4 yards, and his net of 36.1 yards was among the conference leaders.

All the Jets want is the same Ken O'Brien who had a ball in their nine-game win streak last year.

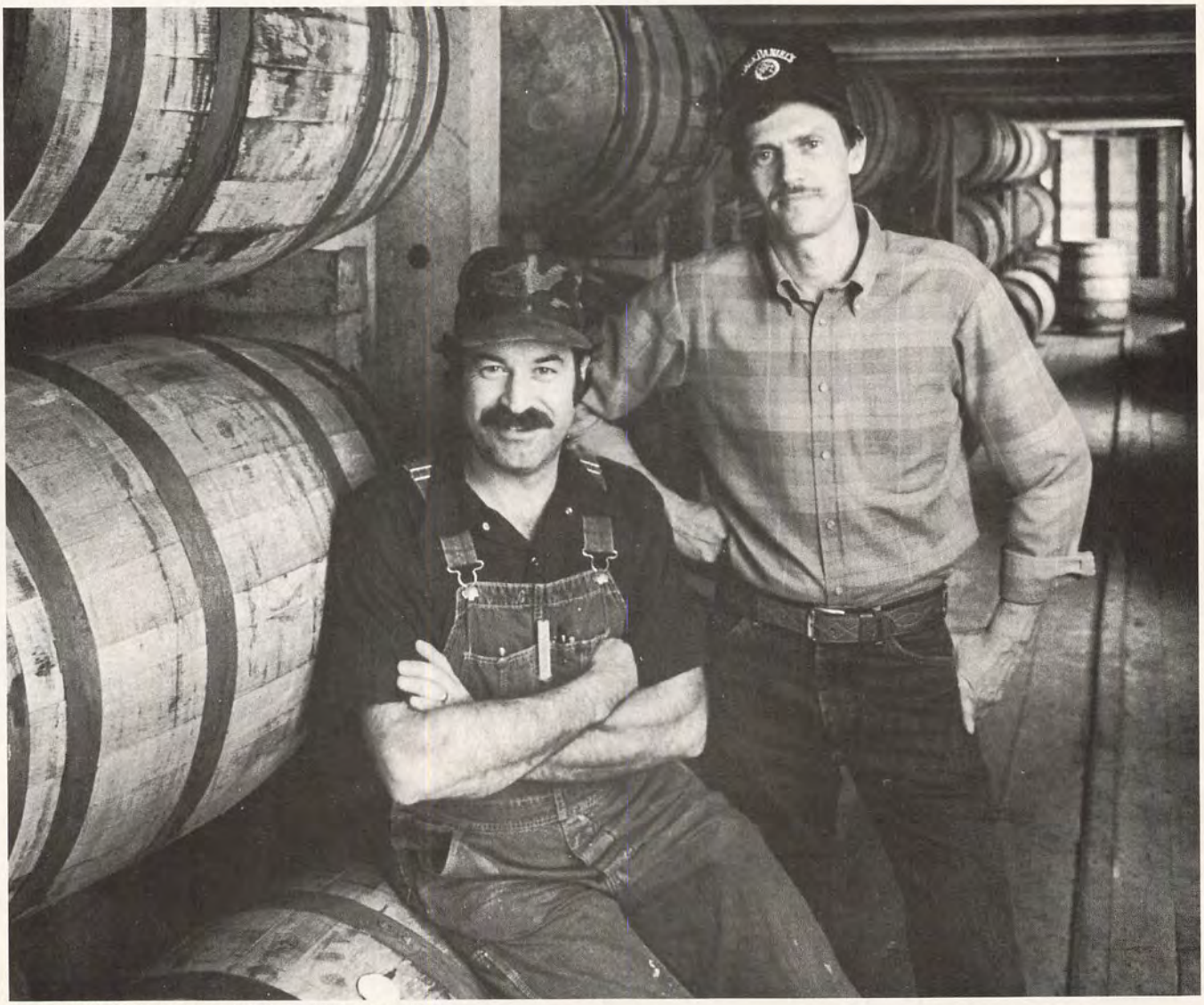
The Jets are concerned about age. Jennings is 35. Fields is 33. Klecko, Lyons, Gastineau and Bennett are all over 30.

Walton is optimistic about 1987, particularly after his team's showing in the playoffs. "We regrouped for the playoffs and that definitely was a plus," he says. "We proved we belonged there. The biggest thing now is for us to get our injured people healthy. Because of the injuries, some people got a chance to play and show us what they'll do in the future. That was a positive."

Says Toon: "I'm confident about the season. If we can get back some of the guys who got hurt, I think we'll be a playoff team again. This is a team that can win 10 games. Last year we won nine in a row before we had some problems. There are still problems, but we can do better and we will."

END

Predictable: productive running by Freeman McNeil in a season marred by injury.



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1987 MAJOR COLLEGE SCHEDULES

\+ Home game * Night game

ATLANTIC COAST

Clemson
Clemson, S.C.
(7–2–2)
S. 5 Western Caro. +
S. 12 Virginia Tech
S. 19 Georgia +
S. 26 Georgia Tech +
O. 10 Virginia +
O. 17 Duke +
O. 24 North Carolina St. +
O. 31 Wake Forest +
N. 7 North Carolina
N. 14 Maryland +
N. 21 South Carolina

Duke
Durham, N.C.
(4–7–0)
S. 5 Colgate +*
S. 12 Northwestern +*
S. 19 Vanderbilt +*
S. 26 Virginia
O. 3 Rutgers @
O. 17 Clemson
O. 24 Maryland
O. 31 Georgia Tech +
N. 7 Wake Forest
N. 14 North Carolina St. +
N. 21 North Carolina
@ East Rutherford, N.J.

Georgia Tech
Atlanta, Ga.
(5–5–1)
S. 12 Citadel +
S. 19 North Carolina +
S. 26 Clemson
O. 3 North Carolina St.
O. 10 Indiana St. +
O. 17 Auburn +
O. 24 Tennessee
O. 31 Duke
N. 7 Virginia +
N. 21 Wake Forest +
N. 28 Georgia +

Maryland
College Park, Md.
(5–5–1)
S. 5 Syracuse *
S. 12 Virginia +
S. 19 West Virginia +
S. 26 North Carolina St. *
O. 10 Miami, Fla.
O. 17 Wake Forest
O. 24 Duke +
O. 31 North Carolina +
N. 7 Penn State @
N. 14 Clemson
N. 21 Vanderbilt
@ Baltimore, Md.

North Carolina
Chapel Hill, N.C.
(7–3–1)
S. 5 Illinois +
S. 12 Oklahoma
S. 19 Georgia Tech
S. 26 Navy
O. 3 Auburn +
O. 10 Wake Forest +
O. 17 North Carolina St.
O. 31 Maryland
N. 7 Clemson +
N. 14 Virginia
N. 21 Duke +

North Carolina State
Raleigh, N.C.
(8–2–1)
S. 5 East Carolina +*
S. 12 Pittsburgh
S. 19 Wake Forest *
S. 26 Maryland +*
O. 3 Georgia Tech +
O. 17 North Carolina +
O. 24 Clemson
O. 31 South Carolina
N. 7 East Tenn. St. +
N. 14 Duke
N. 21 Virginia +

Virginia
Charlottesville, Va.
(3–8–0)
S. 5 Georgia
S. 12 Maryland
S. 19 Virginia Tech +*
S. 26 Duke +
O. 3 Va. Military +*
O. 10 Clemson
O. 17 South Carolina
O. 24 Wake Forest +
N. 7 Georgia Tech
N. 14 North Carolina +
N. 21 North Carolina St.

Wake Forest
Winston-Salem, N.C.
(5–6–0)
S. 12 Richmond +*
S. 19 North Carolina St. +*
S. 26 Appalachian St. +*
O. 3 Army
O. 10 North Carolina
O. 17 Maryland +
O. 24 Virginia
O. 31 Clemson
N. 7 Duke +
N. 14 South Carolina +
N. 21 Georgia Tech

BIG EIGHT

Colorado
Boulder, Colo.
(6–5–0)
S. 12 Oregon +
S. 19 Stanford +
S. 26 Washington St. +
O. 3 Colorado St.
O. 10 Oklahoma St.
O. 17 Kansas +
O. 24 Oklahoma
O. 31 Iowa State
N. 7 Missouri +
N. 14 Nebraska +
N. 21 Kansas St.

Iowa State
Ames, Iowa
(6–5–0)
S. 12 Tulane *
S. 19 Iowa +
S. 26 Wyoming
O. 3 Oklahoma +
O. 10 Northern Iowa +
O. 17 Missouri +
O. 24 Kansas
O. 31 Colorado +
N. 7 Nebraska
N. 14 Kansas St. +
N. 21 Oklahoma St.

Kansas
Lawrence, Kan.
(3–8–0)
S. 12 Auburn *
S. 19 Kent State +
S. 26 Louisiana Tech +
O. 3 Southern Ill. +
O. 10 Nebraska
O. 17 Colorado
O. 24 Iowa State +
O. 31 Oklahoma +
N. 7 Kansas St.
N. 14 Oklahoma St. +
N. 21 Missouri

Kansas State
Manhattan, Kan.
(2–9–0)
S. 5 Austin Peay +*
S. 19 Army +*
S. 26 Iowa
O. 3 Tulsa +
O. 10 Missouri
O. 17 Oklahoma +
O. 24 Nebraska
O. 31 Oklahoma St. *
N. 7 Kansas +
N. 14 Iowa State
N. 21 Colorado +

Missouri
Columbia, Mo.
(3–8–0)
S. 12 Baylor +
S. 19 Northwestern +
S. 26 Indiana
O. 3 Syracuse +
O. 10 Kansas St. +
O. 17 Iowa State
O. 24 Oklahoma St. +
O. 31 Nebraska +
N. 7 Colorado
N. 14 Oklahoma
N. 21 Kansas +

Nebraska
Lincoln, Neb.
(9–2–0)
S. 5 Utah St. +
S. 12 UCLA +
S. 26 Arizona St. *
O. 3 South Carolina +
O. 10 Kansas +
O. 17 Oklahoma St.
O. 24 Kansas St. +
O. 31 Missouri
N. 7 Iowa State +
N. 14 Colorado
N. 21 Oklahoma +

Oklahoma
Norman, Okla.
(10–1–0)
S. 5 North Texas St. +
S. 12 North Carolina +
S. 26 Tulsa
O. 3 Iowa State
O. 10 Texas @
O. 17 Kansas St.
O. 24 Colorado +
O. 31 Kansas
N. 7 Oklahoma St. +
N. 14 Missouri +
N. 21 Nebraska
@ Dallas, Texas

Oklahoma State
Stillwater, Okla.
(6–5–0)
S. 5 Tulsa +*
S. 12 Houston *
S. 19 Wyoming
S. 26 SW Louisiana +*
O. 10 Colorado +
O. 17 Nebraska +
O. 24 Missouri
O. 31 Kansas St. +*
N. 7 Oklahoma
N. 14 Kansas
N. 21 Iowa State +

BIG TEN

Illinois
Champaign, Ill.
(4–7–0)
S. 5 North Carolina
S. 12 Arizona St. +*
S. 19 East Carolina +*
O. 3 Ohio State +
O. 10 Purdue
O. 17 Wisconsin +
O. 24 Michigan St.
O. 31 Minnesota +
N. 7 Indiana
N. 14 Michigan +
N. 21 Northwestern

Indiana
Bloomington, Ind.
(6–5–0)
S. 12 Rice +
S. 19 Kentucky
S. 26 Missouri +
O. 3 Northwestern +
O. 10 Ohio State
O. 17 Minnesota *
O. 24 Michigan +
O. 31 Iowa
N. 7 Illinois +
N. 14 Michigan St.
N. 21 Purdue +

Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa
(8–3–0)
A. 30 Tennessee @
S. 12 Arizona *
S. 19 Iowa State
S. 26 Kansas St. +
O. 3 Michigan St. +
O. 10 Wisconsin
O. 17 Michigan
O. 24 Purdue +
O. 31 Indiana +
N. 7 Northwestern
N. 14 Ohio State
N. 21 Minnesota +
@ East Rutherford, N.J.

Michigan
Ann Arbor, Mich.
(11–1–0)
S. 12 Notre Dame +
S. 19 Washington St. +
S. 26 Long Beach St. +
O. 3 Wisconsin +
O. 10 Michigan St.
O. 17 Iowa +
O. 24 Indiana
O. 31 Northwestern +
N. 7 Minnesota *
N. 14 Illinois
N. 21 Ohio State +

Michigan State
East Lansing, Mich.
(6–5–0)
S. 7 Southern Cal +*
S. 19 Notre Dame
S. 26 Florida St. +
O. 3 Iowa
O. 10 Michigan +
O. 17 Northwestern
O. 24 Illinois +
O. 31 Ohio State
N. 7 Purdue +
N. 14 Indiana +
N. 21 Wisconsin

Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minn.
(6–5–0)
S. 12 Northern Iowa +*
S. 19 California +*
S. 26 Central Mich. +*
O. 3 Purdue +*
O. 10 Northwestern
O. 17 Indiana +*
O. 24 Ohio State
O. 31 Illinois
N. 7 Michigan +*
N. 14 Wisconsin +*
N. 21 Iowa

Northwestern
Evanston, Ill.
(4–7–0)
S. 12 Duke *
S. 19 Missouri
S. 26 Northern Ill. +
O. 3 Indiana
O. 10 Minnesota +
O. 17 Michigan St. +
O. 24 Wisconsin
O. 31 Michigan
N. 7 Iowa +
N. 14 Purdue
N. 21 Illinois +

Ohio State
Columbus, Ohio
(9–3–0)
S. 12 West Virginia +
S. 19 Oregon +
S. 26 Louisiana St.
O. 3 Illinois
O. 10 Indiana +
O. 17 Purdue
O. 24 Minnesota +
O. 31 Michigan St. +
N. 7 Wisconsin
N. 14 Iowa +
N. 21 Michigan

Purdue
West Lafayette, Ind.
(3–8–0)
S. 12 Washington
S. 19 Louisville +
S. 26 Notre Dame +
O. 3 Minnesota *
O. 10 Illinois +
O. 17 Ohio State +
O. 24 Iowa
O. 31 Wisconsin +
N. 7 Michigan St.
N. 14 Northwestern +
N. 21 Indiana

Wisconsin
Madison, Wis.
(3–9–0)
S. 12 Hawaii +
S. 19 Utah +
S. 26 Ball State +
O. 3 Michigan
O. 10 Iowa +
O. 17 Illinois
O. 24 Northwestern +
O. 31 Purdue
N. 7 Ohio State +
N. 14 Minnesota *
N. 21 Michigan St. +

EASTERN INDEPENDENTS

Army
West Point, N.Y.
(6–5–0)
S. 12 Holy Cross +
S. 19 Kansas St. *
S. 26 Citadel +
O. 3 Wake Forest +
O. 10 Boston College
O. 17 Colgate +
O. 24 Rutgers +
O. 31 Temple +
N. 7 Air Force
N. 14 Lafayette +
D. 5 Navy @
@ Philadelphia, Pa.

Boston College
Chestnut Hill, Mass.
(8–3–0)
S. 5 Texas Christian +
S. 12 Temple +
S. 19 Southern Cal
S. 26 Penn State +
O. 3 Pittsburgh
O. 10 Army +
O. 17 Rutgers
O. 24 West Virginia +
O. 31 Tennessee +
N. 7 Notre Dame
N. 14 Syracuse

Navy
Annapolis, Md.
(3–8–0)
S. 12 William & Mary +
S. 19 Lehigh +
S. 26 North Carolina +
O. 3 Virginia Tech
O. 10 Air Force +
O. 17 Pennsylvania
O. 24 Pittsburgh +
O. 31 Notre Dame
N. 7 Syracuse +
N. 14 Delaware
D. 5 Army @
@ Philadelphia, Pa.

Penn State
University Park, Pa.
(11–0–0)
S. 5 Bowling Green +
S. 12 Alabama +*
S. 19 Cincinnati +
S. 26 Boston College
O. 3 Temple +
O. 10 Rutgers +
O. 17 Syracuse
O. 31 West Virginia +
N. 7 Maryland @
N. 14 Pittsburgh
N. 21 Notre Dame +
@ Baltimore, Md.

Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pa.
(5–5–1)
S. 5 Brigham Young
S. 12 North Carolina St. +
S. 19 Temple +*
S. 26 West Virginia
O. 3 Boston College +
O. 10 Notre Dame +
O. 24 Navy
O. 31 Syracuse +
N. 7 Rutgers @
N. 14 Penn State +
N. 21 Kent State +
@ East Rutherford, N.J.

Rutgers
New Brunswick, N.J.
(5–5–1)
S. 5 Cincinnati *
S. 12 Syracuse +
S. 26 Kentucky @
O. 3 Duke @
O. 10 Penn State
O. 17 Boston College +
O. 24 Army
O. 31 Vanderbilt
N. 7 Pittsburgh @
N. 14 West Virginia
N. 21 Temple
@ East Rutherford, N.J.

Syracuse
Syracuse, N.Y.
(5–6–0)
S. 5 Maryland +*
S. 12 Rutgers
S. 19 Miami, O. +*
S. 26 Virginia Tech
O. 3 Missouri
O. 17 Penn State +
O. 24 Colgate +
O. 31 Pittsburgh
N. 7 Navy
N. 14 Boston College +
N. 21 West Virginia +

Temple
Philadelphia, Pa.
(6–5–0)
S. 5 Toledo *
S. 12 Boston College
S. 19 Pittsburgh *
S. 24 Akron +*
O. 3 Penn State
O. 10 Tulsa +
O. 17 Florida
O. 31 Army
N. 7 East Carolina
N. 14 Houston +
N. 21 Rutgers +

West Virginia
Morgantown, W.Va.
(4–7–0)
S. 5 Ohio +
S. 12 Ohio State
S. 19 Maryland
S. 26 Pittsburgh +
O. 3 East Carolina +
O. 17 Cincinnati +
O. 24 Boston College
O. 31 Penn State
N. 7 Virginia Tech +
N. 14 Rutgers +
N. 21 Syracuse

PAC TEN

Arizona
Tucson, Ariz.
(8–3–0)
S. 12 Iowa +*
S. 19 New Mexico +*
S. 26 UCLA
O. 3 Bowling Green +
O. 10 California
O. 17 Oregon St. +*
O. 24 Washington St.
O. 31 Stanford
N. 7 Washington +
N. 14 Southern Cal
N. 28 Arizona St. *

Arizona State
Tempe, Ariz.
(9–1–1)
S. 12 Illinois *
S. 19 Pacific +*
S. 26 Nebraska +*
O. 3 Texas-El Paso +*
O. 10 Washington
O. 17 Washington St. +*
O. 24 Oregon St.
O. 31 UCLA +*
N. 7 Oregon +*
N. 14 California
N. 28 Arizona +*

California
Berkeley, Calif.
(2–9–0)
S. 5 Pacific +
S. 12 San Jose St. +
S. 19 Minnesota *
S. 26 Southern Cal +
O. 3 Tennessee
O. 10 Arizona +
O. 24 UCLA
O. 31 Oregon
N. 14 Arizona St. +
N. 21 Stanford
N. 28 Washington St. @
@ Tokyo, Japan

Oregon
Eugene, Ore.
(5–6–0)
S. 12 Colorado
S. 19 Ohio State
S. 26 San Diego St. +
O. 3 Washington +
O. 10 Southern Cal +
O. 17 UCLA
O. 24 Stanford
O. 31 California +
N. 7 Arizona St. *
N. 14 Washington St.
N. 21 Oregon St. +

Oregon State
Corvallis, Ore.
(3–8–0)
S. 12 Georgia
S. 19 San Jose St. +*
S. 26 Texas *
O. 3 Southern Cal *
O. 10 Akron +
O. 17 Arizona *
O. 24 Arizona St. +
O. 31 Washington
N. 7 UCLA +
N. 14 Stanford +
N. 21 Oregon

Southern Cal
Los Angeles, Calif.
(7–4–0)
S. 7 Michigan St. *
S. 19 Boston College +
S. 26 California
O. 3 Oregon St. +*
O. 10 Oregon
O. 17 Washington
O. 24 Notre Dame
O. 31 Washington St. +
N. 7 Stanford +
N. 14 Arizona +
N. 21 UCLA +

Stanford
Stanford, Calif.
(8–3–0)
S. 5 Washington
S. 19 Colorado
S. 26 San Jose St. +
O. 3 UCLA +
O. 10 Washington St.
O. 17 San Diego St. *
O. 24 Oregon +
O. 31 Arizona +
N. 7 Southern Cal
N. 14 Oregon St.
N. 21 California +

UCLA
Los Angeles, Calif.
(7–3–1)
S. 5 San Diego St. +*
S. 12 Nebraska
S. 19 Fresno St. +
S. 26 Arizona +
O. 3 Stanford
O. 17 Oregon +
O. 24 California +
O. 31 Arizona St. *
N. 7 Oregon St.
N. 14 Washington +
N. 21 Southern Cal

Washington
Seattle, Wash.
(8–2–1)
S. 5 Stanford +
S. 12 Purdue +
S. 19 Texas A&M
S. 26 Pacific +
O. 3 Oregon
O. 10 Arizona St. +
O. 17 Southern Cal +
O. 31 Oregon St. +
N. 7 Arizona
N. 14 UCLA
N. 21 Washington St. +

Washington State
Pullman, Wash.
(3–7–1)
S. 5 Fresno St. +
S. 12 Wyoming +
S. 19 Michigan
S. 26 Colorado
O. 10 Stanford +
O. 17 Arizona St. *
O. 24 Arizona +
O. 31 Southern Cal
N. 14 Oregon +
N. 21 Washington
N. 28 California @
@ Tokyo, Japan

SOUTHEASTERN

Alabama
Tuscaloosa, Ala.
(9–3–0)
S. 5 Southern Miss @
S. 12 Penn State *
S. 19 Florida @
S. 26 Vanderbilt *
O. 3 SW Louisiana @
O. 10 Memphis St.
O. 17 Tennessee @
O. 31 Mississippi St. @
N. 7 Louisiana St. *
N. 14 Notre Dame
N. 28 Auburn @
@ Birmingham, Ala.

Auburn
Auburn, Ala
(9–2–0)
S. 5 Texas +*
S. 12 Kansas +*
S. 26 Tennessee
O. 3 North Carolina
O. 10 Vanderbilt +
O. 17 Georgia Tech
O. 24 Mississippi St. +
O. 31 Florida +
N. 7 Florida St. +
N. 14 Georgia
N. 28 Alabama @
@ Birmingham, Ala.

Florida
Gainesville, Fla.
(6–5–0)
S. 5 Miami, Fla. *
S. 12 Tulsa +
S. 19 Alabama @
S. 26 Mississippi St. +
O. 3 Louisiana St. *
O. 10 Fullerton St. +
O. 17 Temple +
O. 31 Auburn
N. 7 Georgia %
N. 14 Kentucky +
N. 28 Florida St. +
@ Birmingham, Ala.
% Jacksonville, Fla.

Georgia
Athens, Ga.
(7–4–0)
S. 5 Virginia +
S. 12 Oregon St. +
S. 19 Clemson
S. 26 South Carolina +
O. 3 Mississippi
O. 10 Louisiana St. +
O. 17 Vanderbilt *
O. 24 Kentucky +
N. 7 Florida @
N. 14 Auburn +
N. 28 Georgia Tech
@ Jacksonville, Fla.

Kentucky
Lexington, Ky.
(5–5–1)
S. 12 Utah State +
S. 19 Indiana +
S. 26 Rutgers @
O. 3 Ohio +
O. 10 Mississippi +*
O. 17 Louisiana St. *
O. 24 Georgia
O. 31 Virginia Tech +*
N. 7 Vanderbilt
N. 14 Florida
N. 21 Tennessee +
@ East Rutherford, N.J.

Louisiana State
Baton Rouge, La.
(9–2–0)
S. 5 Texas A&M *
S. 12 Fullerton St. +*
S. 19 Rice +*
S. 26 Ohio State +
O. 3 Florida +*
O. 10 Georgia
O. 17 Kentucky +*
O. 31 Mississippi *@
N. 7 Alabama +*
N. 14 Mississippi St. +*
N. 21 Tulane *
@ Jackson, Miss.

Mississippi
University, Miss.
(7–3–1)
S. 5 Memphis St. *
S. 12 Arkansas *@
S. 19 Arkansas St. +
S. 26 Tulane *
O. 3 Georgia +
O. 10 Kentucky *
O. 17 SW Louisiana +
O. 24 Vanderbilt +
O. 31 Louisiana St. *@
N. 14 Tennessee
N. 21 Mississippi St. @
@ Jackson, Miss.

Mississippi State
Mississippi State, Miss.
(6–5–0)
S. 5 SW Louisiana +*
S. 12 Tennessee +*
S. 19 Louisiana Tech +*
S. 26 Florida
O. 3 Memphis St. +*
O. 17 Southern Miss @
O. 24 Auburn
O. 31 Alabama %
N. 7 Tulane +*
N. 14 Louisiana St. *
N. 21 Mississippi @
@ Jackson, Miss.
% Birmingham, Ala.

Tennessee
Knoxville, Tenn.
(6–5–0)
A. 30 Iowa @
S. 5 Colorado St. +*
S. 12 Mississippi St. *
S. 26 Auburn +
O. 3 California +
O. 17 Alabama %
O. 24 Georgia Tech +
O. 31 Boston College
N. 7 Louisville +
N. 14 Mississippi +
N. 21 Kentucky
N. 28 Vanderbilt +
@ East Rutherford, N.J.
% Birmingham, Ala.

Vanderbilt
Nashville, Tenn.
(1–10–0)
S. 12 Memphis St. +*
S. 19 Duke *
S. 26 Alabama +*
O. 3 Tulane *
O. 10 Auburn
O. 17 Georgia +*
O. 24 Mississippi
O. 31 Rutgers +
N. 7 Kentucky +
N. 21 Maryland +
N. 28 Tennessee

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas
Fayetteville, Ark.
(9–2–0)
S. 12 Mississippi *@
S. 19 Tulsa +
S. 26 Miami, Fla. *%
O. 3 Texas Christian *
O. 10 Texas Tech*
O. 17 Texas *%
O. 24 Houston +
O. 31 Rice
N. 7 Baylor +
N. 14 Texas A&M
N. 28 New Mexico %
D. 5 Hawaii
@ Jackson, Miss.
% Little Rock, Ark.

Baylor
Waco, Texas
(8–3–0)
S. 5 Louisiana Tech +
S. 12 Missouri
S. 19 Nevada-Las Vegas *
S. 26 Texas Tech +*
O. 3 Houston *
O. 10 SW Texas +
O. 17 Texas A&M +
O. 24 Texas Christian +
N. 7 Arkansas
N. 14 Rice +
N. 21 Texas

Houston
Houston, Texas
(1–10–0)
S. 12 Oklahoma St. +*
S. 26 Sam Houston St. +*
O. 3 Baylor +*
O. 10 Texas A&M
O. 17 Wyoming
O. 24 Arkansas
O. 31 Texas Christian
N. 7 Texas +*
N. 14 Temple
N. 21 Texas Tech +*
N. 28 Rice

Rice
Houston, Texas
(4–7–0)
S. 5 Lamar +*
S. 12 Indiana
S. 19 Louisiana St. *
S. 26 SW Texas *
O. 3 Texas *
O. 10 Texas Christian +*
O. 17 Texas Tech
O. 24 Texas A&M +
O. 31 Arkansas +
N. 14 Baylor
N. 28 Houston +

Texas
Austin, Texas
(5–6–0)
S. 5 Auburn *
S. 12 Brigham Young +*
S. 26 Oregon St. +*
O. 3 Rice +*
O. 10 Oklahoma @
O. 17 Arkansas *%
O. 31 Texas Tech +
N. 7 Houston *
N. 14 Texas Christian +
N. 21 Baylor +
N. 26 Texas A&M
@ Dallas, Texas
% Little Rock, Ark.

Texas A&M
College Station, Texas
(9–2–0)
S. 5 Louisiana St. +*
S. 19 Washington +
S. 26 Southern Miss. @
O. 3 Texas Tech *
O. 10 Houston +
O. 17 Baylor
O. 24 Rice
O. 31 Louisiana Tech +
N. 14 Arkansas +
N. 21 Texas Christian
N. 26 Texas +
@ Jackson, Miss.

Texas Christian
Fort Worth, Texas
(3–8–0)
S. 5 Boston College
S. 12 Air Force
S. 19 Brigham Young +*
O. 3 Arkansas +*
O. 10 Rice*
O. 17 North Texas St. +
O. 24 Baylor
O. 31 Houston +
N. 7 Texas Tech
N. 14 Texas
N. 21 Texas A&M +

Texas Tech
Lubbock, Texas
(7–4–0)
S. 5 Florida St. *
S. 12 Colorado St. +*
S. 19 Lamar +*
S. 26 Baylor *
O. 3 Texas A&M +*
O. 10 Arkansas +*
O. 17 Rice +
O. 24 Tulsa +
O. 31 Texas
N. 7 Texas Christian +
N. 21 Houston *

WESTERN ATHLETIC

Air Force
Academy, Colo.
(6–5–0)
S. 5 Wyoming
S. 12 Texas Christian +
S. 19 San Diego St. +
S. 26 Colorado St.
O. 3 Utah +
O. 10 Navy
O. 17 Notre Dame +
O. 24 Texas-El Paso +
O. 31 Brigham Young
N. 7 Army +
N. 14 New Mexico
N. 21 Hawaii *

Brigham Young
Provo, Utah
(8–4–0)
S. 5 Pittsburgh +
S. 12 Texas *
S. 19 Texas Christian *
S. 26 New Mexico
O. 2 Utah St. +*
O. 10 Wyoming +
O. 24 Hawaii *
O. 31 Air Force +
N. 7 San Diego St. +
N. 14 Texas-El Paso
N. 21 Utah +
D. 4 Colorado St. @
@ Melbourne, Australia

Colorado State
Fort Collins, Colo.
(6–5–0)
S. 5 Tennessee *
S. 12 Texas Tech *
S. 19 Texas-El Paso +
S. 26 Air Force +
O. 3 Colorado +
O. 10 Utah +
O. 24 New Mexico +
O. 31 Wyoming
N. 7 Hawaii *
N. 14 San Diego St. *
N. 21 SW Louisiana *
D. 4 Brigham Young @
@ Melbourne, Australia

Hawaii
Honolulu, Hi.
(7–5–0)
S. 5 Fullerton St. +*
S. 12 Wisconsin
S. 26 Texas-El Paso *
O. 3 Yale +*
O. 10 New Mexico
O. 17 Utah +*
O. 24 Brigham Young +*
O. 31 San Diego St. +*
N. 7 Colorado St. +*
N. 21 Air Force +*
N. 28 Wyoming +*
D. 5 Arkansas +

New Mexico
Albuquerque, N.M.
(4–8–0)
S. 5 Utah *
S. 12 New Mexico St. *
S. 19 Arizona *
S. 26 Brigham Young +
O. 10 Hawaii +
O. 24 Colorado St.
O. 31 Texas-El Paso
N. 7 Wyoming +
N. 14 Air Force +
N. 21 San Diego St. *
N. 28 Arkansas @
@ Little Rock, Ark.

San Diego State
San Diego, Calif.
(8–3–0)
S. 5 UCLA *
S. 12 Utah +*
S. 19 Air Force
S. 26 Oregon
O. 3 Wyoming
O. 10 Texas-El Paso +*
O. 17 Stanford +*
O. 24 Long Beach St. +*
O. 31 Hawaii +
N. 7 Brigham Young
N. 14 Colorado St. +*
N. 21 New Mexico +*

Texas-El Paso
El Paso, Texas
(4–8–0)
S. 5 New Mexico St. +*
S. 19 Colorado St.
S. 26 Hawaii +*
O. 3 Arizona St. *
O. 10 San Diego St.*
O. 17 Lamar +*
O. 24 Air Force
O. 31 New Mexico +
N. 7 Utah
N. 14 Brigham Young +
N. 21 Wyoming +

Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah
(2–9–0)
S. 5 New Mexico +*
S. 12 San Diego St. *
S. 19 Wisconsin
S. 26 Idaho St. +*
O. 3 Air Force
O. 10 Colorado St.
O. 17 Hawaii *
O. 24 Utah State +
O. 31 Boise St.
N. 7 Texas-El Paso +
N. 14 Wyoming +
N. 21 Brigham Young

Wyoming
Laramie, Wyo.
(6–6–0)
S. 5 Air Force +
S. 12 Washington St.
S. 19 Oklahoma St. +
S. 26 Iowa State +
O. 3 San Diego St. +
O. 10 Brigham Young
O. 17 Houston +
O. 31 Colorado St. +
N. 7 New Mexico
N. 14 Utah
N. 21 Texas-El Paso
N. 28 Hawaii *

(Television may cause changes in some schedules after *Athlon's* publication date. 1986 records do not include bowl games.)

INDEPENDENTS AND OTHER CONFERENCES

Akron
Akron, Ohio
(7–4–0)
S. 5 Western Mich.
S. 12 Kent State +*
S. 19 Eastern Mich. +*
S. 24 Temple
O. 3 Eastern Ill. +*
O. 10 Oregon St.
O. 17 Delaware St. +
O. 24 Louisville
N. 14 Northern Ill.
N. 21 Youngstown St. +

Appalachian St.
Boone, N.C.
(9–1–1)
S. 5 South Carolina*
S. 12 James Madison +
S. 19 Va. Military +
S. 26 Wake Forest*
O. 10 Liberty +
O. 17 Furman
O. 24 Tenn.-Chatt. +
O. 31 East Tenn. St.*
N. 7 Marshall +
N. 14 Citadel
N. 21 Western Caro.

Arkansas State
State University, Ark.
(9–1–1)
S. 5 NW Louisiana +* ›
S. 12 Miss. College +*
S. 19 Mississippi
S. 26 East Texas St. +*
O. 3 McNeese St. *
O. 17 Louisiana Tech +* •
O. 24 Southern Ill.
O. 31 Memphis St. *
N. 7 North Texas St. + ›
N. 14 Lamar *
N. 21 NE Louisiana *

Austin Peay
Clarksville, Tenn.
(5–6–0)
S. 5 Kansas St. *
S. 12 Tenn.-Martin *
S. 19 Southern Ill. +*
S. 26 Tenn. Tech +*
O. 3 Middle Tenn.
O. 10 Morehead St. +
O. 17 Youngstown St.
O. 24 Western Ky. +*
N. 31 Eastern Ky.
N. 14 Cincinnati *
N. 21 Murray St.

Ball State
Muncie, Ind.
(6–5–0)
S. 5 Toledo *
S. 19 Bowling Green +
S. 26 Wisconsin
O. 3 Miami, O.
O. 10 Kent State +
O. 17 Eastern Mich. *
O. 24 Central Mich. +
O. 31 Northern Ill. +
N. 7 Western Mich.
N. 14 Ohio +
N. 21 Indiana St. @
@ Indianapolis, Ind.

Boise State
Boise, Idaho
(5–6–0)
S. 5 Delaware St. +*
S. 12 Northridge +*
S. 26 Weber St.
O. 3 Montana St. +*
O. 10 Eastern Wash. +*
O. 17 Montana
O. 24 Idaho St. +*
O. 31 Utah +
N. 7 Nevada-Reno
N. 14 Northern Ariz. +
N. 21 Idaho

Boston
Boston, Mass.
(4–7–0)
S. 12 Indiana St.*
S. 19 New Hampshire +*
S. 26 Maine
O. 3 Villanova
O. 10 Connecticut +
O. 17 Rhode Island +
O. 24 Massachusetts
O. 31 Richmond +
N. 7 Citadel +
N. 14 Colgate +
N. 21 Delaware

Bowling Green St.
Bowling Green, Ohio
(5–6–0)
S. 5 Penn State
S. 12 Youngstown St. +
S. 19 Ball State
S. 26 Western Mich. +
O. 3 Arizona
O. 10 Ohio
O. 17 Toledo +
O. 31 Miami, O.
N. 7 Kent State +
N. 14 Eastern Mich.
N. 21 Central Mich. +

Brown
Providence, R.I.
(5–4–1)
S. 19 Yale
S. 26 Rhode Island +
O. 3 Princeton +
O. 10 Pennsylvania
O. 17 Cornell +
O. 24 Holy Cross
O. 31 Harvard +
N. 7 Lehigh
N. 14 Dartmouth
N. 21 Columbia +

Bucknell
Lewisburg, Pa.
(3–7–0)
S. 12 Colgate
S. 19 Davidson
S. 26 Pennsylvania +
O. 3 Harvard
O. 10 Lafayette
O. 17 Holy Cross +
O. 24 Columbia +
O. 31 Cornell
N. 7 William & Mary
N. 14 Lehigh +

Central Michigan
Mt. Pleasant, Mich.
(5–5–0)
S. 5 Miami, O. +
S. 12 Idaho *
S. 26 Minnesota*
O. 3 Kent State
O. 10 Eastern Mich. +
O. 17 Tulsa +
O. 24 Ball State
O. 31 Western Mich. +
N. 7 Ohio
N. 14 Toledo +
N. 21 Bowling Green

Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio
(5–6–0)
S. 5 Rutgers +*
S. 12 Louisville
S. 19 Penn State
S. 26 Miami, O. +*
O. 10 East Carolina
O. 17 West Virginia
O. 24 Miami, Fla. +*
O. 31 Tenn. Tech. +
N. 7 Indiana St. @
N. 14 Austin Peay +*
N. 21 Virginia Tech
@ Indianapolis, Ind.

The Citadel
Charleston, S.C.
(3–8–0)
S. 5 Wofford +*
S. 12 Georgia Tech
S. 19 Presbyterian +*
S. 26 Army
O. 10 Va. Military +
O. 17 Tenn.-Chatt. *
O. 24 East Tenn. St.
O. 31 Western Caro. +
N. 7 Boston U.
N. 14 Appalachian St. +
N. 21 Furman +

Colgate
Hamilton, N.Y.
(4–7–0)
S. 5 Duke *
S. 12 Bucknell +
S. 19 William & Mary +
S. 26 Cornell
O. 3 Holy Cross
O. 10 Lehigh +
O. 17 Army
O. 24 Syracuse
O. 31 Lafayette
N. 7 Princeton
N. 14 Boston U. +

Columbia
New York, N.Y.
(0–10–0)
S. 19 Harvard +
S. 26 Lafayette
O. 3 Pennsylvania +
O. 10 Princeton
O. 17 Yale +
O. 24 Bucknell
O. 31 Lehigh +
N. 7 Dartmouth +
N. 14 Cornell
N. 21 Brown

Connecticut
Storrs, Conn.
(8–3–0)
S. 12 Southern Conn. +
S. 19 Northeastern +
S. 26 Yale
O. 3 Richmond
O. 10 Boston U.
O. 17 Massachusetts +
O. 24 Maine
O. 31 Villanova +
N. 7 Delaware +
N. 14 Rhode Island
N. 21 New Hampshire +

Cornell
Ithaca, N.Y.
(8–2–0)
S. 19 Pennsylvania
S. 26 Colgate +
O. 3 Lafayette +
O. 10 Harvard +
O. 17 Brown
O. 24 Dartmouth +
O. 31 Bucknell +
N. 7 Yale
N. 14 Columbia +
N. 21 Princeton

Dartmouth
Hanover, N.H.
(3–6–1)
S. 19 Princeton +
S. 26 New Hampshire
O. 3 Davidson +
O. 10 Holy Cross +
O. 17 Harvard
O. 24 Cornell
O. 31 Yale +
N. 7 Columbia
N. 14 Brown +
N. 21 Pennsylvania

Davidson
Davidson, N.C.
(0–9–0)
S. 5 Presbyterian
S. 12 Lehigh
S. 19 Bucknell +
S. 26 Princeton @
O. 3 Dartmouth
O. 10 Wingate +*
O. 17 Lafayette
O. 24 Wofford
O. 31 Furman
N. 7 West Va. Tech. +
N. 14 Catawba +
@ Charlotte, N.C.

Delaware
Newark, Del.
(8–3–0)
S. 12 Rhode Island
S. 19 West Chester +
S. 26 Richmond +
O. 3 New Hampshire
O. 10 Massachusetts +
O. 17 William & Mary
O. 24 Lehigh
O. 31 Maine +
N. 7 Connecticut
N. 14 Navy +
N. 21 Boston U. +

East Carolina
Greenville, N.C.
(2–9–0)
S. 5 North Carolina St. *
S. 12 Florida St. +*
S. 19 Illinois *
S. 26 Ga. Southern +
O. 3 West Virginia
O. 10 Cincinnati +
O. 17 Virginia Tech
O. 24 South Carolina
O. 31 Miami, Fla. +
N. 7 Temple +
N. 14 Southern Miss

Eastern Illinois
Charleston, Ill.
(10–1–0)
S. 5 San Jose St.
S. 12 NE Missouri
S. 19 Illinois St. +*
S. 26 Liberty
O. 3 Akron *
O. 10 Western Ill. +*
O. 17 Indiana St. +
O. 24 SW Missouri +
O. 31 Northern Iowa *
N. 7 Southern Ill. +
N. 14 Western Ky.

Eastern Kentucky
Richmond, Ky.
(8–2–1)
S. 12 Tenn.-Chatt. *
S. 19 Marshall +
S. 26 Central Fla.
O. 3 Western Ky. +
O. 10 Murray St. +
O. 17 Middle Tenn.
O. 24 Youngstown St.
O. 31 Austin Peay +
N. 7 Tenn. Tech
N. 21 Morehead St.

Eastern Michigan
Ypsilanti, Mich.
(5–5–0)
S. 5 Youngstown St. +*
S. 12 Miami, O.
S. 19 Akron *
S. 26 Kent State
O. 3 Northern Ill. +*
O. 10 Central Mich.
O. 17 Ball State +*
O. 24 Western Mich.
O. 31 Ohio +
N. 7 Toledo
N. 14 Bowling Green +

East Tennessee St.
Johnson City, Tenn.
(6–5–0)
S. 5 William & Mary +*
S. 12 Wofford *
S. 19 Tenn.-Chatt. +*
S. 26 Western Caro. +*
O. 10 Furman
O. 17 Marshall
O. 24 Citadel +
O. 31 Appalachian St. +*
N. 7 North Carolina St.
N. 14 Va. Military
N. 21 James Madison +*

Florida State
Tallahassee, Fla.
(6–4–1)
S. 5 Texas Tech +*
S. 12 East Carolina
S. 19 Memphis St. +*
S. 26 Michigan St.
O. 3 Miami, Fla. +
O. 10 Southern Miss
O. 17 Louisville +
O. 31 Tulane +
N. 7 Auburn
N. 14 Furman +*
N. 28 Florida

Fresno State
Fresno, Calif.
(9–2–0)
S. 5 Washington St.
S. 12 Western Ill. +*
S. 19 UCLA
O. 1 Long Beach St. +*
O. 10 Southern Ill. +*
O. 17 San Jose St. +*
O. 24 Pacific
O. 31 UNLV +*
N. 7 Fullerton St. +*
N. 14 Utah State
N. 21 New Mexico St.

Fullerton St.
Fullerton, Calif.
(3–9–0)
S. 5 Hawaii *
S. 12 Louisiana St. *
S. 19 Long Beach St. +
S. 26 Utah State
O. 3 San Jose St.
O. 10 Florida
O. 17 UN-LV +
O. 24 Northern Ill.
O. 31 New Mexico St. +
N. 7 Fresno St. *
N. 14 Pacific +
N. 21 Montana +

Furman
Greenville, S.C.
(7–2–2)
S. 5 South Carolina St. *
S. 12 Presbyterian +
S. 19 Western Caro. *
S. 26 Tenn.-Chatt. +
O. 3 Marshall +
O. 10 East Tenn. St. +
O. 17 Appalachian St. +
O. 31 Davidson +
N. 7 Va. Military +
N. 14 Florida St.*
N. 21 Citadel

Georgia Southern
Statesboro, Ga.
(9–2–0)
S. 5 Catawba +
S. 12 Florida A&M *
S. 19 Middle Tenn. +
S. 26 East Carolina
O. 3 Central Fla. +
O. 10 Beth.-Cookman *
O. 17 NE Louisiana *
O. 24 Western Caro.
O. 31 Western Ky. +
N. 7 James Madison +
N. 21 South Carolina St.

Grambling
Grambling, La.
(7–4–0)
S. 5 Alcorn St. +
S. 12 Central St.
S. 26 Beth.-Cookman +
O. 3 Prairie View *
O. 10 Tennessee St.
O. 17 Miss. Valley St. +
O. 24 Jackson St.
O. 31 Tex. Southern +
N. 7 Alabama St.
N. 14 South Carolina St. +
N. 28 Southern U.

Harvard
Cambridge, Mass.
(3–7–0)
S. 19 Columbia
S. 26 Northeastern +
O. 3 Bucknell +
O. 10 Cornell
O. 17 Dartmouth +
O. 24 Princeton +
O. 31 Brown
N. 7 Holy Cross
N. 14 Pennsylvania +
N. 21 Yale

Holy Cross
Worcester, Mass.
(10–1–0)
S. 12 Army
S. 19 Lafayette +
S. 26 Lehigh
O. 3 Colgate +
O. 10 Dartmouth
O. 17 Bucknell
O. 24 Brown +
O. 31 Massachusetts
N. 7 Harvard +
N. 14 William & Mary +
N. 21 Villanova

Idaho
Moscow, Idaho
(8–3–0)
S. 5 Mankato St.*
S. 12 Central Mich. +*
S. 19 Portland St. *
S. 26 Northern Ariz. *
O. 3 Idaho St. *
O. 10 Montana +*
O. 17 Nevada-Reno +
O. 24 Eastern Wash. +*
O. 31 Weber St.
N. 7 Montana St.
N. 21 Boise St. +

Idaho State
Pocatello, Idaho
(2–9–0)
S. 12 Texas A&I +*
S. 19 Eastern Wash.
S. 26 Utah *
O. 3 Idaho +*
O. 10 Portland St. +*
O. 17 Northern Ariz. +*
O. 24 Boise St. *
O. 31 Nevada-Reno
N. 7 Montana
N. 14 Montana St. +*
N. 21 Weber St. +*

Illinois State
Normal, Ill.
(5–5–0)
S. 12 Western Mich. +*
S. 19 Eastern Ill.*
S. 26 Southern Ill.
O. 3 Western Ill. +
O. 17 Eastern Wash.
O. 24 Indiana St. +
O. 31 SW Missouri
N. 7 Northern Mich. +
N. 14 NW Missouri +
N. 21 Northern Iowa*

Indiana State
Terre Haute, Ind.
(3–8–0)
S. 5 Salem +*
S. 12 Boston U. +*
S. 19 Western Ill. *
S. 26 Northern Iowa +
O. 3 SW Missouri
O. 10 Georgia Tech
O. 17 Eastern Ill.
O. 24 Illinois St.
O. 31 Southern Ill. +
N. 7 Cincinnati @
N. 21 Ball State @
@ Indianapolis, Ind.

Kent State
Kent, Ohio
(5–6–0)
S. 12 Akron*
S. 19 Kansas
S. 26 Eastern Mich. +
O. 3 Central Mich. +
O. 10 Ball State
O. 17 Western Mich. +
O. 24 Ohio
O. 31 Toledo +
N. 7 Bowling Green
N. 14 Miami, O. +
N. 21 Pittsburgh

Lafayette
Easton, Pa.
(6–5–0)
S. 12 Kutztown +
S. 19 Holy Cross
S. 26 Columbia +
O. 3 Cornell
O. 10 Bucknell +
O. 17 Davidson +
O. 24 New Hampshire
O. 31 Colgate +
N. 7 Pennsylvania +
N. 14 Army
N. 21 Lehigh

Lamar
Beaumont, Texas
(2–9–0)
S. 5 Rice *
S. 12 Northern Ill. *
S. 19 Texas Tech *
S. 26 S.F. Austin +
O. 3 Texas A&I *
O. 10 NE Louisiana +
O. 17 Texas-El Paso *
O. 24 Sam Houston St. +
O. 31 SW Texas
N. 14 Arkansas St. +
N. 21 McNeese St. +

Lehigh
Bethlehem, Pa.
(5–6–0)
S. 12 Davidson +
S. 19 Navy
S. 26 Holy Cross +
O. 3 William & Mary
O. 10 Colgate
O. 17 Princeton
O. 24 Delaware +
O. 31 Columbia
N. 7 Brown +
N. 14 Bucknell
N. 21 Lafayette +

Long Beach St.
Long Beach, Calif.
(6–5–0)
S. 5 Montana St. +
S. 12 Weber St. +
S. 19 Fullerton St.
S. 26 Michigan
O. 1 Fresno St. *
O. 10 Pacific *
O. 17 New Mexico St. +
O. 24 San Diego St. *
N. 7 UN-LV +
N. 14 San Jose St. +
N. 21 Utah State +

Louisiana Tech
Ruston, La.
(6–4–1)
S. 5 Baylor
S. 12 NE Louisiana +
S. 19 Mississippi St. *
S. 26 Kansas
O. 3 Tenn.-Chatt. *
O. 10 McNeese St. +*
O. 17 Arkansas St.
O. 24 Northwestern St. *@
O. 31 Tulsa *
N. 14 SW Missouri +
N. 21 North Texas St. *
@ Shreveport, La.

Louisville
Louisville, Ky.
(3–8–0)
S. 5 Tulane +*
S. 12 Cincinnati +*
S. 19 Purdue
S. 26 Murray St. +*
O. 3 Southern Miss +*
O. 10 Marshall +*
O. 17 Florida St. *
O. 24 Akron +
O. 31 Tulsa *
N. 7 Tennessee
N. 14 Memphis St. *

Maine
Orono, Maine
(7–4–0)
S. 5 American Int'l +
S. 12 Massachusetts
S. 19 Rhode Island
S. 26 Boston U. +
O. 3 Towson St.
O. 10 Northeastern
O. 17 Richmond +
O. 24 Connecticut +
O. 31 Delaware
N. 7 New Hampshire +

Marshall
Huntington, W. Va.
(6–4–1)
S. 5 Morehead St. +
S. 12 Ohio
S. 19 Eastern Ky.
S. 26 Youngstown St. +
O. 3 Furman
O. 10 Louisville *
O. 17 East Tenn. St. +
O. 24 Va. Military +
O. 31 Tennessee Tech *
N. 7 Appalachian St.
N. 14 Western Caro. +

Massachusetts
Amherst, Mass.
(8–3–0)
S. 12 Maine +
S. 19 Richmond
S. 26 James Madison +
O. 3 Rhode Island +
O. 10 Delaware
O. 17 Connecticut
O. 24 Boston U. +
O. 31 Holy Cross +
N. 7 Villanova
N. 14 New Hampshire
N. 21 Northeastern

McNeese St.
Lake Charles, La.
(2–9–0)
S. 5 Northern Iowa +*
S. 12 NW Louisiana *
S. 19 S.F. Austin +*
S. 26 North Texas St. +*
O. 3 Arkansas St. +*
O. 10 Louisiana Tech *
O. 24 New Mexico St. *
O. 31 Louisiana *
N. 7 SW Texas +*
N. 14 Nicholls St. +*
N. 21 Lamar

Memphis St.
Memphis, Tenn.
(1–10–0)
S. 5 Mississippi +*
S. 12 Vanderbilt *
S. 19 Florida St. *
S. 26 Mississippi St. *
O. 10 Alabama +
O. 17 Tulane +*
O. 24 Southern Miss +*
O. 31 Arkansas St. +*
N. 7 SW Louisiana *
N. 14 Louisville +
N. 21 Tulsa

Miami (Fla.)
Coral Gables, Fla.
(11–0–0)
S. 5 Florida +*
S. 19 South Carolina +
S. 26 Arkansas *@
O. 3 Florida St.
O. 10 Maryland +
O. 24 Cincinnati *
O. 31 East Carolina
N. 7 Miami, O. +*
N. 14 Virginia Tech +
N. 21 Toledo +*
N. 28 Notre Dame +
@ Little Rock, Ark.

Miami (Ohio)
Oxford, Ohio
(8–3–0)
S. 5 Central Mich.
S. 12 Eastern Mich. +
S. 19 Syracuse *
S. 26 Cincinnati *
O. 3 Ball State +
O. 10 Western Mich.
O. 17 Ohio +
O. 24 Toledo
O. 31 Bowling Green +
N. 7 Miami, Fla. *
N. 14 Kent State

Middle Tennessee
Murfreesboro, Tenn.
(6–5–0)
S. 5 Tennessee St. *
S. 19 Ga. Southern
S. 26 Western Ky.
O. 3 Austin Peay +
O. 10 Miss. Valley St.
O. 17 Eastern Ky. +
O. 31 Youngstown St. +
N. 7 Morehead St.
N. 14 Murray St. +
N. 21 Tenn. Tech.

Montana
Missoula, Mont.
(6–4–0)
S. 12 Portland St. +
S. 19 Northern Ariz. *
S. 26 Nevada-Reno +
O. 3 Northern Iowa
O. 10 Idaho *
O. 17 Boise St. +
O. 24 Weber St. +
O. 31 Montana St.
N. 7 Idaho +
N. 14 Eastern Wash.
N. 21 Fullerton St.

Montana St.
Bozeman, Mont.
(3–8–0)
S. 5 Long Beach St.
S. 12 Sam Houston St. +
S. 19 Northern Iowa *
S. 26 Eastern Wash. +
O. 3 Boise St. *
O. 10 Nevada-Reno
O. 17 Weber St. +
O. 24 Northern Ariz. *
O. 31 Montana +
N. 7 Idaho +
N. 14 Idaho St. *

Morehead State
Morehead, Ky.
(7–4–0)
S. 5 Marshall
S. 12 Kentucky St. +
S. 19 James Madison
O. 10 Austin Peay
O. 17 Tenn. Tech +
O. 24 Tennessee St. +
O. 31 Murray St.
N. 7 Middle Tenn. +
N. 14 Youngstown St.
N. 21 Eastern Ky. +

Murray State
Murray, Ky.
(7–3–1)
S. 5 Tenn.-Martin +*
S. 12 SE Missouri +*
S. 19 Western Ky.
S. 26 Louisville *
O. 10 Eastern Ky.
O. 17 Alcorn St. +*
O. 24 Tenn. Tech
O. 31 Morehead St. +
N. 7 Youngstown St.
N. 14 Middle Tenn.
N. 21 Austin Peay +

Nevada-Las Vegas
Las Vegas, Nevada
(6–5–0)
S. 12 SW Louisiana *
S. 19 Baylor +*
O. 3 Nevada-Reno +*
O. 10 Utah State +*
O. 17 Fullerton St.
O. 24 San Jose St.
O. 31 Fresno St. *
N. 7 Long Beach St. +*
N. 14 New Mexico St. *
N. 21 Pacific +*
N. 28 Northern Ill. +*

Nevada-Reno
Reno, Nevada
(11–0–0)
S. 12 Eastern Wash.
S. 19 Calif.-Davis +
S. 26 Montana +
O. 3 UN-LV *
O. 10 Montana St. +
O. 17 Idaho
O. 24 S.F. Austin +
O. 31 Idaho St. +
N. 7 Boise St. +
N. 14 Weber St. +
N. 21 Northern Ariz. *

New Hampshire
Durham, N.H.
(7–4–0)
S. 5 Richmond +
S. 19 Boston U. *
S. 26 Dartmouth +
O. 3 Delaware +
O. 17 Northeastern +
O. 24 Lafayette +
O. 31 Rhode Island
N. 7 Maine
N. 14 Massachusetts +
N. 21 Connecticut

New Mexico St.
Las Cruces, N.M.
(1–10–0)
S. 5 Texas-El Paso *
S. 12 New Mexico +*
S. 26 Angelo St. +*
O. 3 Pacific *
O. 10 San Jose St.
O. 17 Long Beach St.
O. 24 McNeese St. +*
O. 31 Fullerton St.
N. 7 Utah State +*
N. 14 UN-LV +*
N. 21 Fresno St. +

North Dakota
Grand Forks, N.D.
(2–9–0)
S. 5 NW Missouri +
S. 19 Augustana, S.D. +
S. 26 Morningside
O. 3 St. Cloud St. +
O. 10 Mankato St.
O. 17 Northern Colo.
O. 24 Neb.-Omaha +
O. 31 South Dakota St.
N. 7 South Dakota +
N. 14 North Dakota St.

North Texas St.
Denton, Texas
(6–4–0)
S. 5 Oklahoma
S. 12 SW Texas +*
S. 19 NW Louisiana *
S. 26 McNeese St. *
O. 10 Sam Houston St. +*
O. 17 Texas Christian
O. 31 S.F. Austin *
N. 7 Arkansas St. *
N. 14 NE Louisiana *
N. 21 Louisiana Tech +*

Northeast Louisiana
Monroe, La.
(5–6–0)
S. 5 Louisiana Tech *
S. 19 SW Texas *
S. 26 Nicholls St. +*
O. 3 Northwestern St.
O. 10 Texas A&M *
O. 17 Ga. Southern +*
O. 24 SW Louisiana +*
O. 31 McNeese St. +*
N. 7 Southern Miss
N. 14 North Texas St. +*
N. 21 Arkansas St. +*

Northern Arizona
Flagstaff, Ariz.
(7–4–0)
S. 5 Northern Colo.
S. 19 Montana +*
S. 26 Idaho +*
O. 3 Sonoma St. +*
O. 10 Weber St. *
O. 17 Idaho St. *
O. 24 Montana St. +*
O. 31 Eastern Wash.
N. 7 Tulsa
N. 14 Boise St.
N. 21 Nevada-Reno +*

Northern Illinois
De Kalb, Ill.
(2–9–0)
S. 12 Lamar +*
S. 19 Western Mich.
S. 26 Northwestern
O. 3 Eastern Mich. *
O. 10 Toledo +
O. 17 SW Missouri +
O. 24 Fullerton St. +
O. 31 Ball State
N. 7 Western Ill. +
N. 14 Akron +
N. 28 UN-LV *

Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, Iowa
(7–3–1)
S. 5 McNeese St. *
S. 12 Minnesota *
S. 19 Montana St. +*
S. 26 Indiana St.
O. 3 Montana +
O. 10 Iowa State
O. 24 Western Ill.
O. 31 Eastern Ill. +*
N. 7 SW Missouri
N. 14 Southern Ill. +*
N. 21 Illinois St. +*

Northwestern St.
Natchitoches, La.
(5–5–1)
S. 5 Arkansas St. *
S. 12 McNeese St. +*
S. 19 North Texas St. +*
S. 26 Sam Houston St. *
O. 3 NE Louisiana +
O. 10 SW Louisiana *
O. 17 SW Texas *
O. 24 Louisiana Tech *@
N. 7 Nicholls St. *
N. 14 Jackson St. +*
N. 21 S.F. Austin +*
@ Shreveport, La.

Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Ind.
(5–6–0)
S. 12 Michigan
S. 19 Michigan St. +
S. 26 Purdue
O. 10 Pittsburgh
O. 17 Air Force
O. 24 Southern Cal +
O. 31 Navy +
N. 7 Boston College +
N. 14 Alabama +
N. 21 Penn State
N. 28 Miami, Fla.

Ohio
Athens, Ohio
(1–10–0)
S. 5 West Virginia
S. 12 Marshall +
S. 19 Toledo
S. 26 Kentucky
O. 10 Bowling Green +
O. 17 Miami, O.
O. 24 Kent State +
O. 31 Eastern Mich.
N. 7 Central Mich. +
N. 14 Ball State
N. 21 Western Mich. +

Pacific
Stockton, Calif.
(4–7–0)
S. 5 California
S. 12 Sacramento St. +*
S. 19 Arizona St. *
S. 26 Washington
O. 3 New Mexico St. +*
O. 10 Long Beach St. +*
O. 17 Utah State
O. 24 Fresno St. +
N. 7 San Jose St.
N. 14 Fullerton St.
N. 21 UN-LV *

Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.
(10–0–0)
S. 19 Cornell +
S. 26 Bucknell
O. 3 Columbia
O. 10 Brown +
O. 17 Navy +
O. 24 Yale
O. 31 Princeton +
N. 7 Lafayette
N. 14 Harvard
N. 21 Dartmouth +

Princeton
Princeton, N.J.
(2–8–0)
S. 19 Dartmouth
S. 26 Davidson @
O. 3 Brown
O. 10 Columbia +
O. 17 Lehigh +
O. 24 Harvard
O. 31 Pennsylvania
N. 7 Colgate +
N. 14 Yale +
N. 21 Cornell +
@ Charlotte, N.C.

Rhode Island
Kingston, R.I.
(1–10–0)
S. 5 James Madison*
S. 12 Delaware +
S. 19 Maine +
S. 26 Brown
O. 3 Massachusetts
O. 17 Boston U.
O. 24 Richmond
O. 31 New Hampshire +
N. 7 Northeastern +
N. 14 Connecticut +
N. 21 Towson St.

Richmond
Richmond, Va.
(4–7–0)
S. 5 New Hampshire
S. 12 Wake Forest *
S. 19 Massachusetts +
S. 26 Delaware
O. 3 Connecticut +
O. 10 James Madison
O. 17 Maine
O. 24 Rhode Island +
O. 31 Boston U.
N. 14 Villanova +
N. 21 William & Mary

San Jose St.
San Jose, Calif.
(9–2–0)
S. 5 Eastern Ill. +
S. 12 California
S. 19 Oregon St. *
S. 26 Stanford
O. 3 Fullerton St. +
O. 10 New Mexico St. +
O. 17 Fresno St. *
O. 24 UN-LV +
O. 31 Utah State
N. 7 Pacific +
N. 14 Long Beach St.

Slippery Rock
Slippery Rock, Pa.
(3–7–0)
S. 5 Hillsdale *
S. 12 Central Conn.
S. 19 New Haven +
S. 26 Edinboro +
O. 3 Clarion
O. 10 Lock Haven +
O. 17 Shippensburg
O. 24 California, Pa. +
O. 31 Bloomsburg +
N. 7 Indiana, Pa.

South Carolina
Columbia, S.C.
(3–6–2)
S. 5 Appalachian St. +*
S. 12 Western Caro. +*
S. 19 Miami, Fla.
S. 26 Georgia
O. 3 Nebraska
O. 10 Virginia Tech +
O. 17 Virginia +
O. 24 East Carolina +
O. 31 North Carolina St. +
N. 14 Wake Forest
N. 21 Clemson +

South Dakota
Vermillion, S.D.
(9–2–0)
S. 5 Washburn +
S. 12 Central Missouri +
S. 19 Neb.-Omaha *
S. 26 South Dakota St.
O. 3 Augustana, S.D. +
O. 10 Morningside
O. 17 St. Cloud St. +
O. 24 Mankato St.
O. 31 North Dakota St. +
N. 7 North Dakota
N. 14 Northern Colo. +

South Dakota St.
Brookings, S.D.
(6–5–0)
S. 5 Central Missouri
S. 19 North Dakota St. *
S. 26 South Dakota +
O. 3 Neb.-Omaha +
O. 10 Augustana, S.D.
O. 17 Morningside +
O. 24 St. Cloud St. +
O. 31 North Dakota +
N. 7 Northern Colo.
N. 14 Mankato St. +

Southern Illinois
Carbondale, Ill.
(7–4–0)
S. 5 Delta St. +
S. 12 SW Missouri +
S. 19 Austin Peay
S. 26 Illinois St. +
O. 3 Kansas
O. 10 Fresno St. *
O. 17 Western Ill. +
O. 24 Arkansas St. +
O. 31 Indiana St.
N. 7 Eastern Ill.
N. 14 Northern Iowa *

Southern Miss
Hattiesburg, Miss.
(6–5–0)
S. 5 Alabama@
S. 19 Tulane +
S. 26 Texas A&M %
O. 3 Louisville *
O. 10 Florida St. +
O. 17 Mississippi St. %
O. 24 Memphis St. *
O. 31 Jackson St. +
N. 7 NE Louisiana +
N. 14 East Carolina +
N. 28 SW Louisiana
@ Birmingham, Ala.
% Jackson, Miss.

SW Louisiana
Lafayette, La.
(6–5–0)
S. 5 Mississippi St. *
S. 12 UN-LV +*
S. 26 Oklahoma St. *
O. 3 Alabama @
O. 10 Northwestern St. +*
O. 17 Mississippi
O. 24 NE Louisiana *
O. 31 Memphis St. +
N. 14 Tulane *
N. 21 Colorado St. +*
N. 28 Southern Miss +
@ Birmingham, Ala.

Tenn.-Chattanooga
Chattanooga, Tenn.
(4–7–0)
S. 12 Eastern Ky. +*
S. 19 East Tenn. St. *
S. 26 Furman
O. 3 Louisiana Tech +*
O. 10 Western Ky. +*
O. 17 Citadel +
O. 24 Appalachian St.
O. 31 Marshall +*
N. 7 Western Caro.
N. 14 Tenn. Tech +*
N. 21 Va. Military

Tennessee St.
Nashville, Tenn.
(9–1–1)
S. 5 Middle Tenn. +*
S. 12 Jackson St. *@
S. 26 Florida A&M *
O. 3 Central St., O. %
O. 10 Grambling +*
O. 17 Morris Brown
O. 24 Morgan St. +*
O. 31 Southern U. *
N. 7 Beth.-Cookman +
N. 14 Tex.-Southern +
N. 21 Alabama A&M
@ Memphis, Tenn.
% Indianapolis, Ind.

Tennessee Tech
Cookeville, Tenn.
(0–10–0)
S. 12 Liberty +*
S. 19 Abilene Christian *
S. 26 Austin Peay +
O. 3 Ark.-Pine Bluff +*
O. 10 Youngstown St. +
O. 17 Morehead St.
O. 24 Murray St. +
O. 31 Cincinnati *
N. 7 Eastern Ky. +
N. 14 Tenn.-Chatt. *
N. 21 Middle Tenn. +

Toledo
Toledo, Ohio
(7–4–0)
S. 5 Temple +*
S. 12 Ball State +*
S. 19 Ohio +*
O. 3 Western Mich.
O. 10 Northern Ill.
O. 17 Bowling Green
O. 24 Miami, O. +
O. 31 Kent State
N. 7 Eastern Mich. +
N. 14 Central Mich.
N. 21 Miami, Fla. *

Tulane
New Orleans, La.
(4–7–0)
S. 5 Louisville
S. 12 Iowa State +*
S. 19 Arkansas
S. 26 Mississippi +*
O. 3 Vanderbilt +*
O. 17 Memphis St. *
O. 24 Virginia Tech +*
O. 31 Florida St.
N. 7 Mississippi St. *
N. 14 SW Louisiana +*
N. 21 Louisiana St. +*

Tulsa
Tulsa, Okla.
(7–4–0)
S. 5 Oklahoma St. *
S. 12 Florida
S. 19 Arkansas
S. 26 Oklahoma +
O. 3 Kansas St.
O. 10 Temple
O. 17 Central Mich.
O. 24 Texas Tech
O. 31 Louisville +*
N. 7 Northern Ariz. +
N. 21 Memphis St. +

Utah State
Logan, Utah
(3–8–0)
S. 5 Nebraska
S. 12 Kentucky
S. 26 Fullerton St. +
O. 2 Brigham Young *
O. 10 UN-LV *
O. 17 Pacific +
O. 24 Utah
O. 31 San Jose St. +
N. 7 New Mexico St. *
N. 14 Fresno St. +
N. 21 Long Beach St.

Villanova
Villanova, Pa.
(8–1–0)
S. 19 Liberty
S. 26 Merrychurst +
O. 3 Boston U. +
O. 10 Central Conn.
O. 17 Catholic U. +
O. 24 Northeastern
O. 31 Connecticut
N. 7 Massachusetts +
N. 14 Richmond
N. 21 Holy Cross +

VMI
Lexington, Va.
(1–10–0)
S. 12 West Va. Tech +
S. 19 Appalachian St.
S. 26 Wofford +
O. 3 Virginia *
O. 10 Citadel
O. 17 James Madison +
O. 24 Marshall
O. 31 William & Mary @
N. 7 Furman
N. 14 East Tenn. St. +
N. 21 Tenn.-Chatt. +
@ Norfolk, Va.

Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Va.
(8–2–1)
S. 12 Clemson +
S. 19 Virginia *
S. 26 Syracuse +
O. 3 Navy +
O. 10 South Carolina
O. 17 East Carolina +
O. 24 Tulane *
O. 31 Kentucky
N. 7 West Virginia
N. 14 Miami, Fla.
N. 21 Cincinnati +

Weber State
Ogden, Utah
(3–8–0)
S. 5 Western St. +*
S. 12 Long Beach St.
S. 19 Southern Utah +*
S. 26 Boise St. +*
O. 10 Northern Ariz. +*
O. 17 Montana St.
O. 24 Montana
O. 31 Idaho +
N. 7 Eastern Wash. +
N. 14 Nevada-Reno
N. 21 Idaho St. *

Western Caro.
Cullowhee, N.C.
(6–5–0)
S. 5 Clemson
S. 12 South Carolina *
S. 19 Furman +*
S. 26 East Tenn. St. *
O. 10 Mars Hill +*
O. 17 N.C. A&T +
O. 24 Ga. Southern +
O. 31 Citadel
N. 7 Tenn.-Chatt. +
N. 14 Marshall
N. 21 Appalachian St. +

Western Kentucky
Bowling Green, Ky.
(4–6–1)
S. 5 Gardner-Webb +
S. 19 Murray St. +
S. 26 Middle Tenn. +
O. 3 Eastern Ky.
O. 10 Tenn.-Chatt. *
O. 17 Livingston +
O. 24 Austin Peay +
O. 31 Ga. Southern
N. 14 Eastern Ill. +
N. 21 N.C. A&T

Western Michigan
Kalamazoo, Mich.
(3–8–0)
S. 5 Akron +
S. 12 Illinois St.
S. 19 Northern Ill. +
S. 26 Bowling Green
O. 3 Toledo +
O. 10 Miami, O. +
O. 17 Kent State
O. 24 Eastern Mich. +
O. 31 Central Mich.
N. 7 Ball State +
N. 21 Ohio

West Texas State
Canyon, Texas
(7–4–0)
S. 5 S.F. Austin +*
S. 12 Central St., Okla. +*
S. 19 Troy State *
S. 26 Mississippi Col. *
O. 3 East Central Okla. +
O. 10 Angelo St.
O. 24 East Texas St.
O. 31 Texas A&I +*
N. 7 NW Missouri +
N. 14 Eastern N.M.
N. 21 Abilene Christian +

William & Mary
Williamsburg, Va.
(9–2–0)
S. 5 East Tenn. St. *
S. 12 Navy
S. 19 Colgate
O. 3 Lehigh +
O. 10 Yale
O. 17 Delaware +
O. 24 James Madison +
O. 31 Va. Military @
N. 7 Bucknell +
N. 14 Holy Cross
N. 21 Richmond +
@

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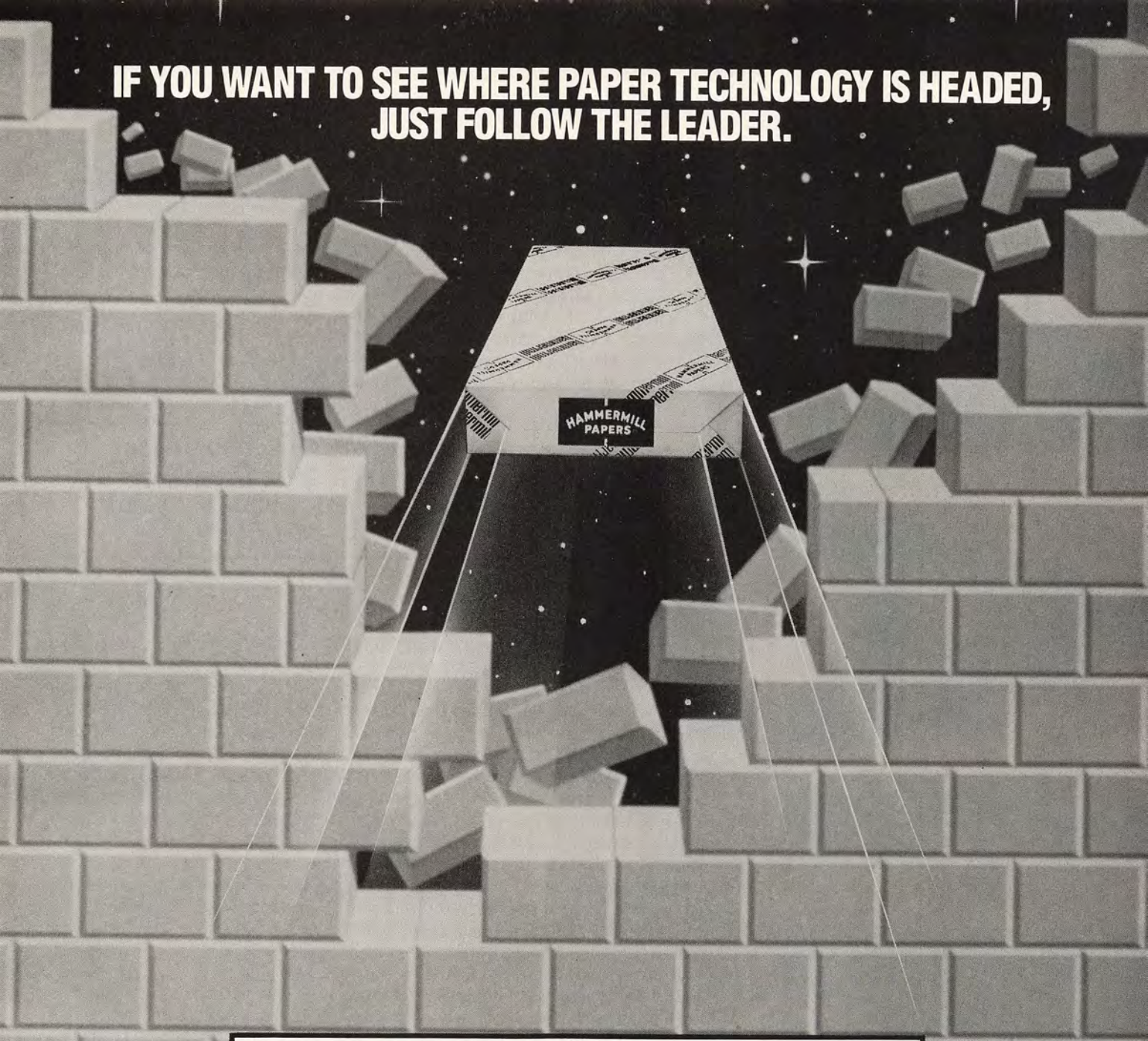

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MIAMI

He was Rookie of the Year in the National Football League. He made the Pro Bowl starting lineup, the first time that had ever happened to a Miami Dolphin linebacker. And he was described by no less an authority than Don Shula as "a guy who is going to have a great impact in this league."

And yet, when you talk to John Offerdahl, he will tell you quite matter-of-factly that while all the attention was very nice, "I know how I played last year, and I think I have much to learn. I made too many mistakes."

Consider what he told the man from *The Miami Herald* the week before the NFL's Rookie of the Year award was given to him.

"This year I got my foot in the door, but I have so much room for improvement. I'm serious about not wanting it (the award). It's like a writer turning out a halfway decent story and winning the Pulitzer Prize when he knows he could do better."

"I know you're asking, can this guy be for real? . . . Most people can't believe someone can be that perfect, but I've known him four years and I haven't found a flaw yet."

Cynics might accuse Offerdahl of false modesty. But people close to him know that he is an almost fanatical devotee of the game, constantly asking questions and agonizing over every missed tackle or assignment.

"I know you're asking, can this guy be for real?" says Greg Mattison, Offerdahl's defensive coordinator at Western Michigan. "Most people can't believe someone can be that perfect, but I've known him four years and I haven't found a flaw yet.

"In his freshman year, he was thrown into the starting lineup because one of our seniors broke both hips in a car accident. On that first day of practice, Offerdahl kept asking me questions while I was trying to teach. I stopped practice and came down pretty hard on him, telling him to quit asking questions and start taking charge.

"He followed me all the way to the locker room and almost started to cry. He said, 'Coach, that's the only way I know how to learn.' Well, I felt about four feet tall. I never stopped him again. By the time he was a senior, the other players would kid that I was the coordinator but John was the coach."

Still, not everyone was convinced. Although Offerdahl grew up near Madison, home of the University of Wisconsin, and was an outstanding high school player, no Big Ten school offered him a scholarship. In fact, he went to Western Michigan on a partial grant-in-aid. It was almost immediately upgraded to a full scholarship when the coaches saw this 185-pounder hit everything in sight.

Going from college to the pros, there was more skepticism. Though Offerdahl had built himself into a 6-2, 232-pound specimen by his senior season, pro scouts were not all that impressed with his speed (4.72 in the 40) or his stunning statistics at Western Michigan, a school that has never been confused with a football factory.

Still, the Dolphins had their eye on Offerdahl on draft day, though they hardly expected him to be around when they chose. They had seen him in the Senior Bowl. They took notice when he stopped Heisman Trophy winner Bo Jackson twice on critical plays. They also knew he was an intelligent student who made good grades and even now talks about going to medical school in the off-season.

Miami assumed everyone else knew about Offerdahl's skills and intelligence. The Dolphins did not expect him to be available when their first choice in the draft came late in the second round. When time came for that selection, Shula, looking to improve a defense that had been shaky at best the year before, never hesitated. He made Offerdahl the 52nd chosen. Shula felt that he had the best bargain in the draft.

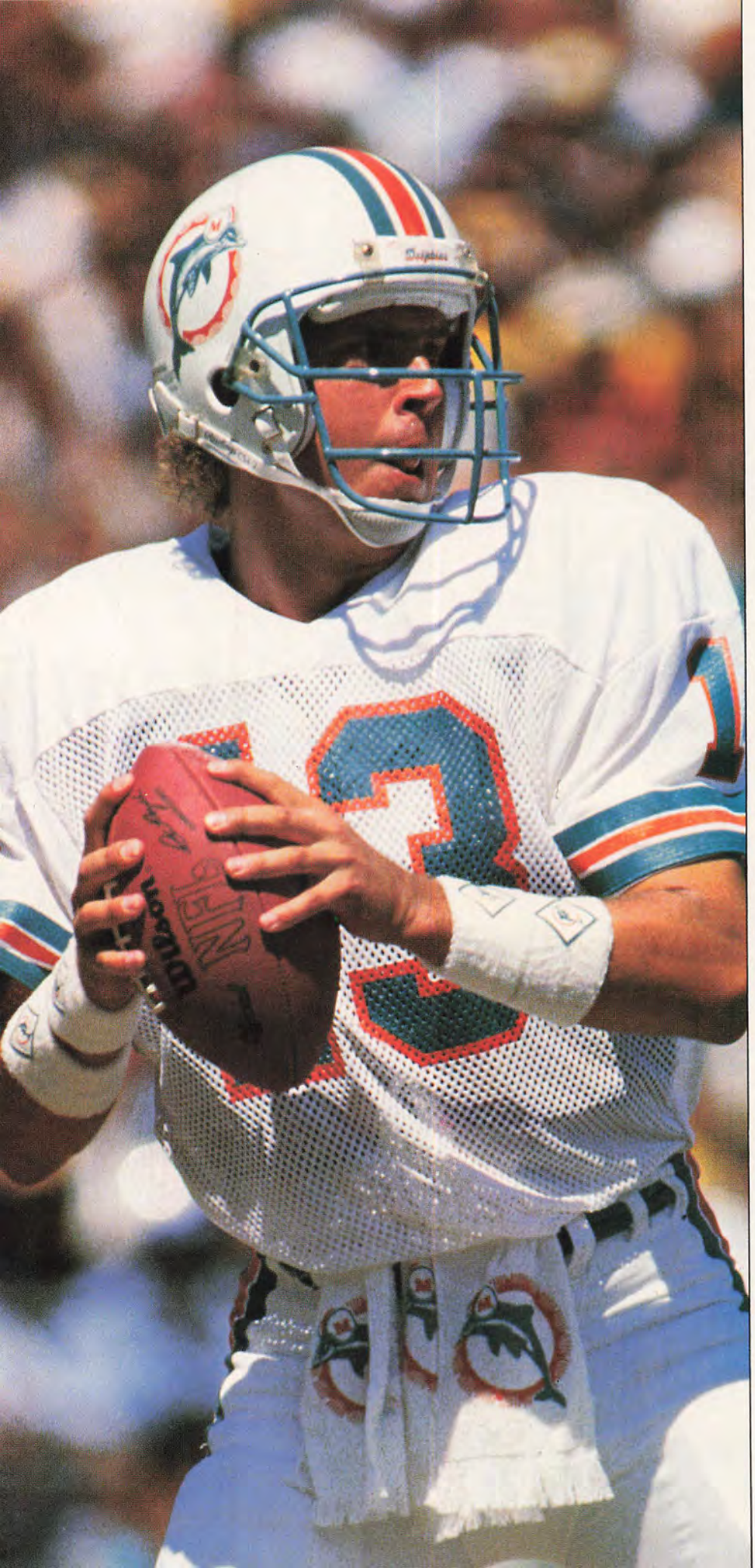
Offerdahl was a holdout for three weeks. He finally signed a four-year, $900,000 contract.

"That was a tough time for me," he says, "but I managed to stay in pretty good shape. I worked out in the Florida heat, so I was in pretty good shape when I reported. To tell you the truth, if I had gone through the whole camp, I'm not sure I would have made it to the end of the season. They really banged me up. Another three weeks could have killed me."

(continued)

Dolphin linebacker John Offerdahl is always looking for ways to improve, a good reason he made All-Pro as a rookie.

56



Don't be surprised if some Sunday Dan Marino breaks the one-game pass-yardage mark: 554.

(Miami continued)

Offerdahl made an impression the first day in camp. "We had just started team drills when John took on the block of a tackle and threw him back into the runner," says former Dolphin linebacker coach Bob Matheson. "I thought, 'Whoa, this guy really can hit.' I've never questioned his toughness since."

"He's done everything we asked of him," Shula says. "He reminds me a lot of Dan Marino as a rookie. It was obvious early that we had something special in Dan, and the same thing was true of Offerdahl."

Says nose tackle Bob Baumhower, "If John can stay healthy, he could be great."

That is Offerdahl's major concern as he heads into his second season. He is trying to put on eight to 10 pounds of solid weight, because he knows his body needs more protection. Although he is listed as 232, he finished last season closer to 220. Nagging injuries forced him to miss practice for 10 games.

"I can play at this level but the question is for how long," Offerdahl says. He is familiar with the injury-shortened career of another Dolphin linebacker, A.J. Duhe. "What happened to A.J. could happen to me. I'm the same type of player. If you're going to play the game, you've got to know the consequences. But I don't want to think about that. I don't want to make an easy tackle just so I can play longer."

Very little came easy for Offerdahl and the Dolphins in 1986. Though he led the team in tackles with 135 (50 more than the closest teammate, fellow inside linebacker Jackie Shipp) and also called defensive signals even as a rookie, he could not carry the defense on his own broad shoulders.

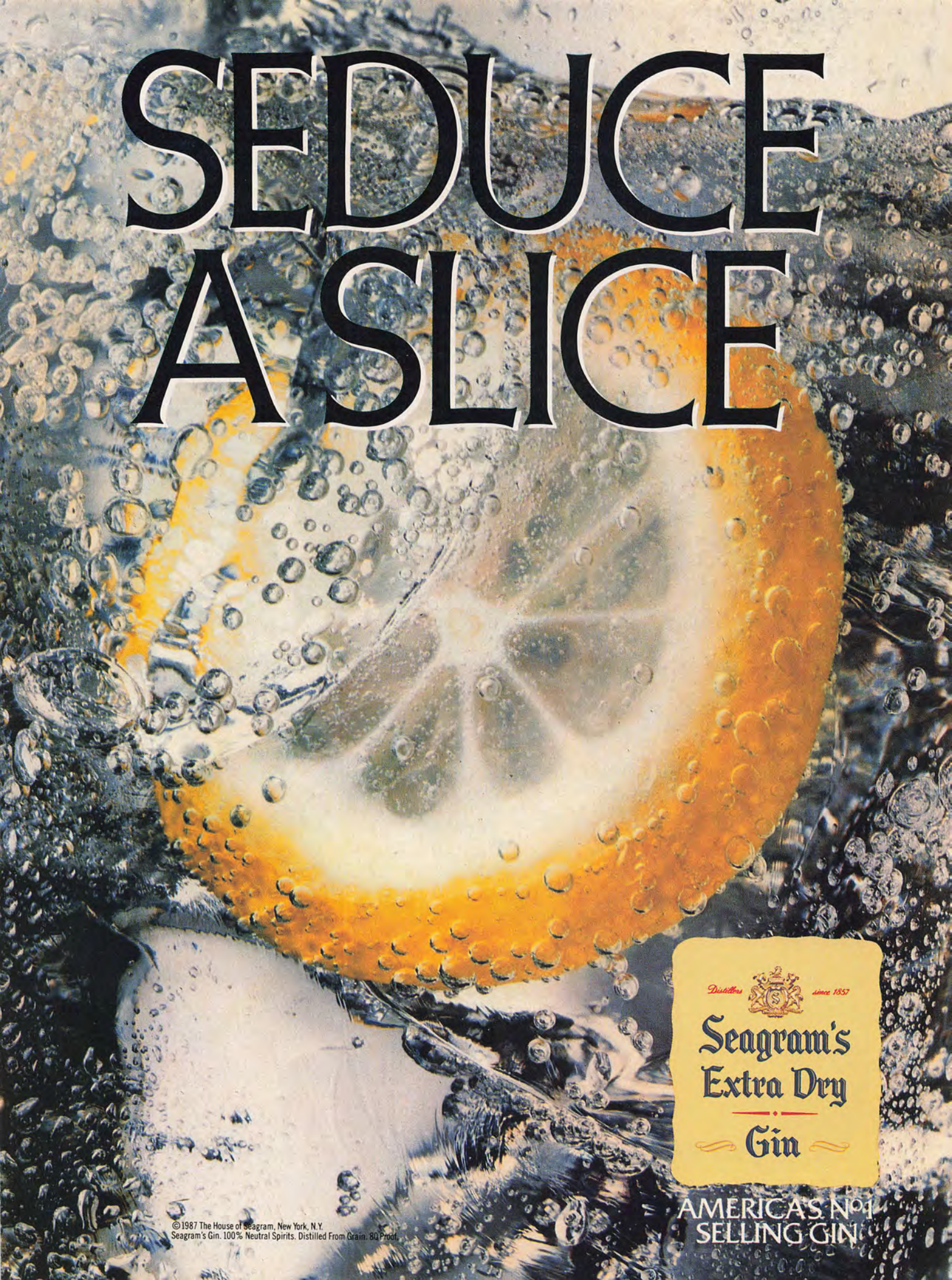
Miami finished 26th in total defense in the NFL, 27th against the rush and 22nd against the pass. Those were primary reasons the Dolphins started 2-5 and finished 8-8, missing the playoffs for the first time since 1980.

"But here's the scoop on the Dolphins," Offerdahl says. "True, we finished 8-8, but this is a better team than that. This franchise has been successful for a long time, and it hasn't been able to get many impact players because it's had to draft so low. Then, too, some of the top draft choices didn't pan out. But we can come back. We've got the best coach in the NFL, and if we can get help in the draft for the defense, we'll be a factor."

The defense obviously had serious problems a year ago. The offense scored 27 or more points four times, and all four times the defense allowed more. "We must make significant changes if we're going to get this team back to where I want it to be," Shula said after the season.

He hired a new defensive coordinator, Tom Olivadotti, who had been the secondary coach for the Cleveland Browns. Former defensive coordinator Chuck Studley was demoted to linebacker coach. Matheson resigned because he felt he had little chance to advance

(continued)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Twelve months a year, Steve Wade and Ernest Paine punch, brand and drive 2200 head of cattle across 500,000 acres of land. Without a discouraging word. So they each received a bottle of V.O.

The reward.

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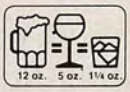


REMEMBER – ALL ARE EQUAL IN ALCOHOL CONTENT

(Miami continued)
in the Miami organization and was replaced.

The Dolphins' biggest needs on defense involve the line. The starting unit of Baumhower and ends T.J. Turner and George Little had a total of only six sacks. Turner may move to nose tackle if Baumhower shows signs of age. Help also could come from backup end Mike Charles, who is not one of Shula's favorites. End Doug Betters, a star of Miami's Super Bowl teams in the early 1980s, could be a contributor if he stays healthy.

There are ifs at linebacker, too, mostly concerning Hugh Green. He suffered a serious season-ending knee injury early last year. If he recovers fully, it would be a tremendous boost to the defense. Mark Brown took Green's place as an outside backer. Bob Brudzinski was a 16-game starter on the other side.

The secondary also was hurt by a knee injury to cornerback Paul Lankford. The team got decent play from youngsters Reyna Thompson and Mike Smith, but the jury is still out.

On offense, the Dolphins had a Jekyll-Hyde season. While the passing offense was ranked No. 1 in the NFL, the rushing offense was only No. 25, although second-year pro Lorenzo Hampton gained 830 yards (4.5 average) and became the fourth player in history to score all (nine) of his team's rushing touchdowns.

Running backs were not the problem in 1986. The offensive line suffered a number of injuries. Center Dwight Stephenson was voted to his fourth straight Pro Bowl as a starter, and guard Roy Foster made it for the second year. However, right guard Ronnie Lee and right tackle Greg Koch had problems run-blocking. No lineman in Miami can afford to have problems pass-blocking, not with Marino throwing the football and wide receivers like Mark Duper, Mark Clayton and Nat Moore, and tight end Bruce Hardy catching it.

Marino had another brilliant season, justifying a new six-year, $9 million contract by establishing single-season records for completions (378) and attempts (623) while throwing for 4,746 yards and 44 touchdowns.

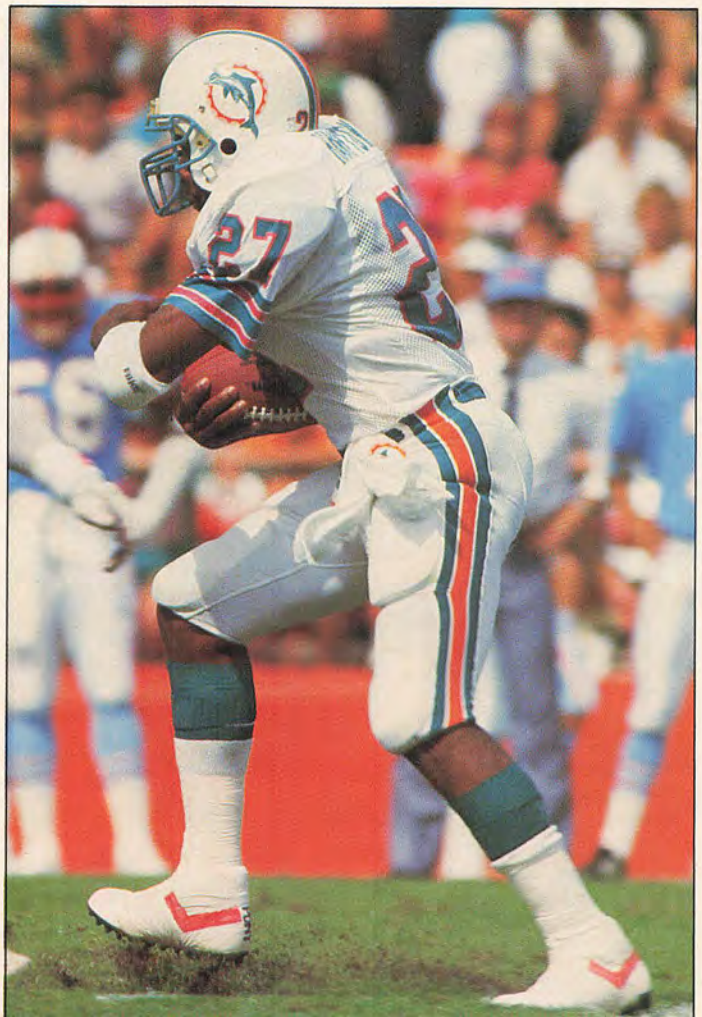
Duper caught 67 of those passes, Clayton 60 and Moore 38. Hardy had the best season for a tight end in Miami history with 54 catches for 430 yards.

The Dolphins also had the second-leading punter in the AFC in Reggie Roby (44.2-yard average). Placekicker Fuad Reveiz scored 94 points. He led the league with 52 extra points and made 14 of his 22 field-goal attempts.

And of course, there is always the Shula factor. There have been few rebuilding years under the real Dandy Don. If history is any indication, Shula, the winningest active coach in the NFL (263-107-6), will make most of the right moves to get the Dolphins back on track.

"We won six out of our last nine games last year," Offerdahl says, "and we were still alive for the playoffs right to the end. We have talent, and we're all very optimistic."

END



Mark Super Duper (above) lived up to his name reasonably well, and Lorenzo Hampton (left), with 830 yards, was certainly not a part of what was wrong with the Dolphins' 25th-ranked rushing offense.

Free safety Vince Newsome (22) grabbed attention with 113 tackles and three interceptions.

(Los Angeles Rams continued)

"He got over to the sideline and was in a crowd. Then he made a quick step, like a little back. I remember thinking then that he was going to be something very special. You just don't see big guys making those moves very often."

Dickerson, a three-time Pro Bowler, rarely finds himself being compared to other running backs. Few have even worn his number: 29.

"I'm a different kind of back," he says. "I'm not a Walter Payton or a Tony Dorsett or a Herschel Walker. But I can get you short yards and I can get you long yards. I can make the big play or the tough play. I can do it all. I've got my own style, my own number. I'm not trying to copy anybody. I've got my own identity and I'm my own person. My mother taught me that."

The Rams are hoping to develop a passing game to complement Dickerson's rushing productivity. The hope lies with Everett, the former Purdue quarterback who came to Los Angeles in a trade with Houston that, among other things, cost the Rams All-Pro guard Kent Hill.

Everett picked up the nickname General Blade or Blade for his angular (6-5, 212) frame and the way he slices through defenses. Although he compiled an unimpressive 67.8 passing rating, Everett did earn kudos for congeniality with teammates. He treated his offensive line to beers and dipped snuff with nose tackle Greg Meisner, and even went out on Bourbon Street with offensive guard Dennis Harrah.

"He's just a good kid and I enjoy being around him," says Harrah, who played in his fifth Pro Bowl last January. "I just wish I'd been as mature at age 23 as he is. I don't know if I'm as mature now, at 34."

To help redesign the passing game, Robinson hired Ernie Zampese from the Chargers to be offensive coordinator. Robinson is hoping that Zampese's guidance, along with help from quarterback coach Dick Coury, will make Everett one of the NFL's leading quarterbacks. Everett, despite being a smart quarterback, still needs work on fundamentals.

Irvin's six steals put him in the Pro Bowl.

Did Robinson tip his hand for the 1987 season when he designed a passing strategy for the final game against San Francisco? Even though the Rams lost 24-14, observers were both surprised and pleased to see Robinson expanding the offense.

But there is still much work to do. Wide receiver Henry Ellard led the team with only 34 receptions. With Olympic gold medal sprinter Ron Brown returning from a shoulder injury, the deep passing game should improve. Brown, who caught only 25 passes last season, had to sit out the wild-card loss to Washington. Tight ends David Hill and Tony Hunter combined for 408 yards on 29 catches.

Running back Barry Redden had a career-high 467 rushing yards. He's also valued for his blocking.

Despite losing Kent Hill in the Houston trade, the Rams still have one of the NFL's best offensive lines. Center Doug Smith, tackle Jackie Slater and Harrah made the Pro Bowl. Left guard Tom Newberry, who replaced Hill, was the league's best rookie lineman last season. Tackle Irv Pankey is a seven-year veteran.

On defense, cornerback Jerry Gray finished fourth in the NFC with eight interceptions. Cornerback LeRoy Irvin had six interceptions, followed by Cromwell with five. At free safety, Johnnie Johnson and Vince Newsome combined for four. Gray and Irvin were among the Rams' seven Pro Bowl picks.

The Rams could still use a pass rusher. They had 39 sacks in '86, 17 fewer than the previous year. The starting defensive line, ends Reggie Doss and Doug Reed and nose tackle Shawn Miller, is solid against the run but mediocre against the pass (seventh in the NFC).

Opposing teams reached the Los Angeles 20-yard line 41 times last season, scoring only 15 touchdowns; the Rams scored 21 touchdowns in 42 chances. They were also plus six in turnovers.

Linebacker Jim Collins, who missed last season with a pinched nerve in his neck, is not expected to return. That would leave the Rams with starting linebackers Mel Owens, Mark Jerue, Carl Ekern and Mike Wilcher.

Placekicker Mike Lansford was the team's leading scorer with 85 points. Dale Hatcher averaged 38.6 yards punting.

Robinson's Rams lost three straight games at the end of the season, one to Washington in the playoffs.

Still, the Rams will be considered among the favorites for the NFC title.

"There is no question about the potential of this team," Robinson says. "Of course, we're in a tough division. But if we can get through the division, we can contend for the Super Bowl."

END

(Kansas City continued)

"It's going to be a different experience under Frank Gansz, that's for sure," Cherry says. "He demands perfection from his players. And he is very, very intense.

"Last year I noticed guys that had always been the last ones to the stadium suddenly showing up first thing in the morning. They were there to attend the special-team meetings, even though they didn't have to."

However, a morning at the movies with Gansz can promote more excitement and emotion than a midnight showing of *Top Gun*.

"He is the type of guy who is not afraid to chew somebody out," Cherry says. "I don't care if you've played in this league for 15 years, if you do something wrong, he'll tell you about it. But he does it in a way that you respect. You can't argue with him. 'Am I lying?' he'll ask. 'What do you see? Are we watching the same film?' He'll turn on the lights and say to your face, 'You did a lousy job.'

"But he'll also turn off the film and turn on the lights so that he can tell you, before all your teammates, that you did something great."

The most obvious area for improvement this year is, of course, the offense. The Chiefs were last in the NFL in total yardage. Only one other team had a lower rushing output, and the K.C. passing attack averaged only 172 yards, down from 212 in '85.

Mike Pruitt, the Chiefs' rushing leader with 448 yards, has 7,378 career yards. That's best among active players in the AFC but points up the fact that Pruitt has now toiled through 11 NFL seasons.

Jeff Smith, the third-year back out of Nebraska, was the team's best offensive performer with 1,270 all-purpose yards and a per-carry average of 4.4 yards. He caught 33 passes. Boyce Green came on strong in the last half of the '86 campaign; he had a team-high 25.4-yard kickoff return average and returned a kickoff 97 yards for a TD against Pittsburgh.

In that game, last of the regular season for Kansas City, special teams were responsible for all the Chiefs' 24 points. They needed most of them to beat the Steelers 24-19, giving Kansas City its first playoff shot since 1971.

The win over the Steelers prompted some critics to suggest that the best way to insure success for the Chiefs is to keep the football out of the hands of their quarterbacks.

Todd Blackledge, who had been hailed as Kansas City's quarterback of the future, assumed the starting role last season but yielded it to Bill Kenney in midseason after completing only 46 percent of his passes. Kenney finished the year with a 52 percent completion average but still ranked only 11th in the AFC quarterback efficiency ratings. And when the Chiefs opened the playoffs against the Jets, Blackledge once again got the starting call. Frank Seurer, a free-agent draftee in '86, will get another look at quarterback.

Jeff Smith was the Chiefs' all-purpose ace.

An added frustration is the fact that Kansas City has excellent talent at wide receiver.

Henry Marshall is still productive after 11 seasons, and his 46 catches for 652 yards last year ranked second only to Stephone Paige, who set career records with 52 catches and 11 touchdowns.

But Carlos Carson missed six games due to injuries, and Anthony Hancock spent most of '86 on injured reserve due to a knee injury.

Tight ends Jonathon Hayes and Walt Arnold were equally effective, averaging 8.6 and 8.5 yards receiving respectively.

Kansas City field-goal specialist Nick Lowery had an off year yet still led the team in scoring with 100 points.

Kansas City quarterbacks were sacked 50 times in '86; they'll be looking for improvement in the offensive line. Tackle Irv Eatman, guard Brad Budde and center Rich Donnalley started all 16 games. First-year Chief Mark Adickes started 15 at right guard. Tackle John Alt, who missed the first nine games with a back injury, should play an important role this season, as will tackle David Lutz, who missed seven games in midseason due to an injured knee.

In an attempt to solve the Chiefs' offensive puzzle, Gansz named Homer Smith offensive coordinator.

Smith, offensive coordinator at UCLA from 1980 to '86, is a former head coach of Army. Gansz, an admirer of Gen. George Patton, was Smith's offensive coordinator.

"I have great confidence in Homer Smith," Gansz says. "He trained me. He will drill the gunners and open up new territories of mental capability. He will command the troops."

And Smith, Gansz and the rest of the Kansas City Chiefs will have a lot of help—from the Red Baron.

END

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Brightest Bum in Texas

by Skip Hollandsworth

Once upon a time, H.R. "Bum" Bright was just another crusty Texas tycoon. He loved to buy companies, and he would buy just about anything from mortgage banks to nursing homes. He made more than $500 million, becoming one of the nation's 50 wealthiest men. But almost no one had heard of the reclusive tycoon until one day in 1984, when he made another purchase. The purchase cost him $85 million, and it didn't look like it would turn much of a profit for him. But what it did do was turn the 66-year-old businessman into an instant celebrity.

Bum Bright bought the Dallas Cowboys. In Texas that makes you about as famous as the governor. Bright, who started out broke and then spent four decades privately building a fortune, suddenly found his name in the newspapers nearly every day.

For an old-fashioned man who wears white short-sleeved shirts to the office every day, cuts his hair so short it looks like it's been caught in an electric fan, and recites Rudyard Kipling poems to his grandchildren, sudden fame didn't come easy.

Television crews would corner Bright at games and ask him what he knew about football. Persistent sportswriters would demand to know how the Cowboys' new general partner would change the team. Bum would stand there, puffing on a cigarette like a trucker, and he'd answer the questions with almost shocking honesty. "Hell, I don't even know (Cowboys coach) Tom Landry," he once said. "I saw him on the airplane one time, and I couldn't think of anything to say to him except, 'How are you doing, Tom? I own your football team.' "

Although Bright is one of those silent owners who does not interfere in the operations of the Cowboys—"I just sit in my box on the 50-yard line and yell a little bit," he says—enough of his personality emerged for Cowboys fans to learn quickly that he is a very peculiar and intriguing man.

He's wealthy, yet he's such a penny-pincher that he once indignantly walked out of a restaurant because his coffee cost 85 cents a cup. He takes great satisfaction in the fact that he bought the oil paintings on the wall of his huge mansion for no more than $17.50 each. He's made so many business deals that he can't remember all of them, yet he shows up every day at the office before 7 a.m.

He ignores most current trends. The last movie he saw was *Patton*. When asked if he's heard of the entertainer Michael Jackson, a blank look comes across his face. His idea of entertainment is to sing songs like *Toot, Toot, Tootsie, Goodbye* with his wife accompanying on the organ.

Bright hates to give things away. The closets of his home are jammed with all his old clothes, and his driveway looks like a used car lot because he refuses to sell any of his old cars.

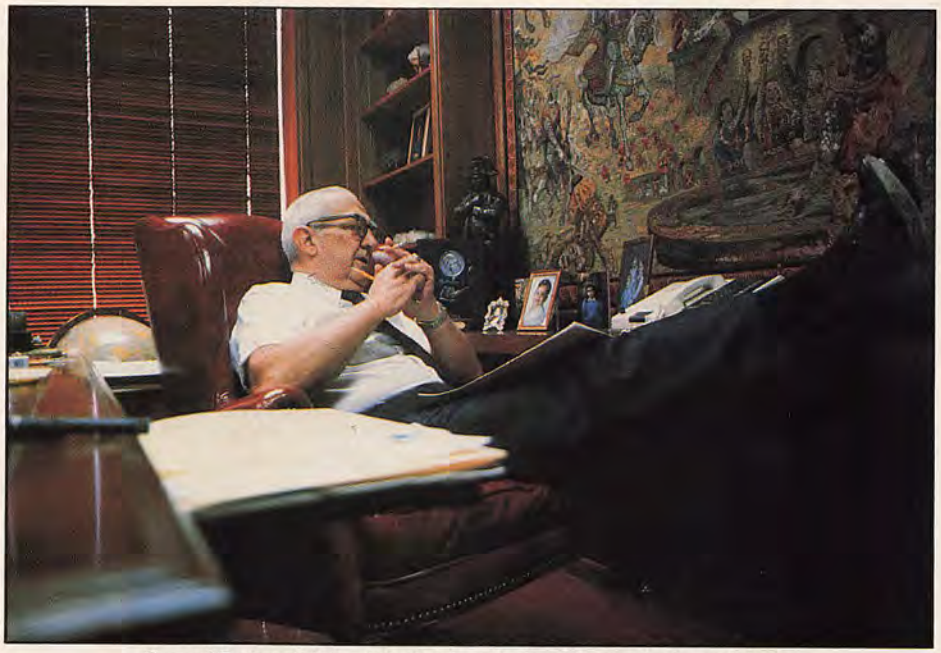
He is so superstitious it is sometimes embarrassing. "He has all these lucky numbers," says his wife, Peggy. "At breakfast, he will drink his milk in seven sips. He tells me never to put 13 slices of peaches in a bowl because that's unlucky. He honks the car horn 11 times in the driveway when he comes home at night. He always puts his right shoe on first. He carries a four-leaf clover. Just about anything I do I have to worry whether I'm breaking one of his superstitions."

But make no mistake. Bright didn't get where he is today by luck alone. When he is after a deal, he can be a hard-nosed, sometimes ruthless businessman. To seal deals, he has chased people into bathrooms and talked wives into locking husbands out of bedrooms. While trying to buy a trucking company, Bright learned that a part owner had suffered a stroke and was lying in a hospital room. He went in, contract in hand. "I put a pen in his hand," Bright says matter-of-factly. "I finally had to ask the nurse to get me some rubber bands so we could hold the pen in his hand. I sat next to him and helped him sign his name. And I got the company."

There is no better example of Bright's wily ways than the story of his negotiations for the Cowboys. During one tense eight-hour bargaining session, a Cowboys representative asked to borrow some of Bright's cigarettes. Bright charged him $1 per cigarette. He later charged him $10 for a box of Girl Scout cookies when the negotiator got hungry. Bright also persuaded him to pull out a coin and flip it to resolve a dispute over $100,000. Bright won the toss. He also kept the coin.

"He'll just scare the daylights out of you if you don't know him," says longtime friend and well-known Dallas businessman Joel Williams. "He can be cold, very gruff and intense."

Bright might come across as a cantankerous cuss, but he is a charming man. Sitting in his wood-paneled office filled with an array of manly art—old guns and knives on the walls, sculptures of Indians and deer and medieval warriors, and a Davy Crockett figure standing on a rock—he can spellbind his audience with long stories, told in a dramatic growl, about anything from business to the way he treats women (all female workers in his companies must wear dresses, and no swearing by men is allowed when ladies are present).



General Partner Bright of the Cowboys is the ultimate wheeler and dealer.

Bright is fiercely loyal. When the Cowboys missed the playoffs last year and suffered considerable criticism, he publicly defended his team.

He is also passionate about his alma mater, Texas A&M. His office is filled with A&M memorabilia. He once printed 25,000 matchbooks to proclaim an A&M football victory.

Bright caused a major controversy in 1981 when, as chairman of the school's board of regents, he led a movement to fire the head football coach and replace him with Jackie

(continued on page 200)

BUFFALO

He has been hailed as the savior of the franchise, but if you think that has put any extra weight on the broad shoulders of Jim Kelly, think again.

"I guess you could say I'm used to pressure," the Buffalo Bills' quarterback says. "People have expected a lot from me over the years. I expect a lot from myself, too. All I can do is play as hard as I'm able, but I believe that we can turn things around in Buffalo. I can't wait to get started again."

The bumps and bruises from all those sacks and near sacks have mostly healed for Kelly, but the pain of a 4-12 season still lingers in his mind as he prepares for his second season in the National Football League.

"It's the first time in my life I've been on a losing team," Kelly says, "and I never want to go through it again."

"People have expected a lot from me over the years. I expect a lot from myself, too. All I can do is play as hard as I'm able."

Still, there were consolations. In case you missed it, Kelly is the highest-paid player in the NFL, with a contract that should make up for all the pain and suffering of that first year, and many years to come.

Kelly's five-year agreement guarantees him a minimum of $5.3 million by the end of the 1988 season. He got a base salary of $1 million for 1986 and a signing bonus of $2 million. This year, the base salary goes up to $1.1 million, with increases if he ranks among the NFL's top three passers. The amount goes to $1.2 million in 1988, $1.3 million in 1989 and $1.4 million in 1990.

Is it any wonder that Bills Owner Ralph Wilson Jr., a man with a heretofore penurious reputation, told a group of businessmen at a recent luncheon, "If some 280-pound lineman ever body-slams Kelly, I'd appreciate it if you'd look around your offices and see if you have an opening, because I'll need a job then."

But don't be deceived. Kelly is probably worth every penny his owner can spare when you consider his impact on the franchise in his first year.

When Kelly signed after the United States Football League decided not to play last summer, there was an immediate run on Buffalo season tickets. Sales were up by 9,000 over the previous year. Bills attendance increased by almost 30,000 per game over 1985, despite the team's record.

The total turnstile count improved by nearly 230,000 and, at an average of $15 a ticket, not to mention parking concessions and souvenirs, the Bills' estimated gross proceeds improved by over $4 million from the previous season.

Kelly was the reason, the whole reason and nothing but the reason, and his play on the field clearly justified the investment in his considerable talents.

The Bills' four wins were double the total of the previous year. Far more significant, there were hardly any blowouts. The team dropped its average margin of defeat from 15 points to seven, and seven of the team's 12 losses were by six points or less.

Obviously it was a year of turmoil, one that included the signing of Kelly, the firing of Coach Hank Bullough at midseason and the hiring of Marv Levy, Buffalo's fourth head coach since 1982.

Kelly's welcome to the city had the pageantry of a Hollywood premiere. On Aug. 18, he was met at the Buffalo airport by a black stretch limousine and a police escort to take him to a press conference at the Buffalo Hilton. The whole event was televised live to the people of western New York. That day, he received personal greetings from the mayor and a county executive, a telephone call from Governor Mario Cuomo and a new Corvette convertible and Chevy Blazer from Charles Mancuso, an area car dealer. "I wanted to give him a real welcome to Buffalo," said Mancuso. "It's been a long drought."

That day, lines began forming at the ticket windows at Rich Stadium. By the first week in September, the Bills had sold over 28,000 season tickets, compared to 19,031 for all of 1985. The sellout crowd for the opener with the Jets was the largest ever to see a Bills' regular-season home game.

(continued)

The Bills, needing a savior to deliver in the clutch for lo, these many years, finally found him in Jim Kelly.

12

End Bruce Smith barged into backfields, knocking down quarterbacks.

(Buffalo continued)

Huge crowds lined the Buffalo training camp practice field, and Kelly was besieged by autograph seekers. "I threw one wristband and 20 kids started fighting over it," Kelly says. "I said to myself, 'This is something else, I've never seen anything like this before.' It made me feel good to get all the attention. It showed me the fans were tired of losing. They wanted a winner."

And that's exactly what they got. Kelly, a high school star at East Brady, Pa., spurned the offers of Penn State to begin leading Miami toward national prominence.

Though the Bills picked him in the first round of the 1983 draft, he opted instead for the fledgling USFL. In two years with the Houston Gamblers, he was the most prolific passer in professional football. He threw for 5,219 yards and 44 touchdowns in 1984 and was named the league's Most Valuable Player. A year later, his numbers were down to 4,623 yards and 39 touchdowns, but he missed the final four games with a knee injury.

"I see a lot of Sonny Jurgensen in the way Kelly throws and his confidence," says new University of Houston Coach Jack Pardee, who played with Jurgensen on the Washington Redskins. "He has the same quick release, and when he puts the ball up, it's usually caught. Norm Van Brocklin had some of the same qualities as Jim. When Norm stepped on the field, he was the man and everybody knew it. Jim also reminds me a little of Johnny Unitas, how he's so caught up in his job and knows what everybody is supposed to be doing.

"The only thing that could keep him from the Hall of Fame, from being one of the greatest who ever played, is how long he'll play. If he has 15 years of good health, he'll rewrite the records."

Last season Kelly got off to a somewhat rocky start, throwing interceptions in three straight losses, two of which were decided by fewer than four points. But in the final eight games he settled down to throw 13 touchdown passes with only five interceptions. He finished with a highly respectable 83.3 rating without having taken part in a full training camp.

"Jim Kelly gives us an element that many teams don't have: an outstanding quarterback," Levy says. "That's something I didn't have in Kansas City. You can win a game without one, but not a championship."

Levy has told Kelly that he will allow him considerably more freedom this season, particularly to throw the long ball, and that's exactly what Kelly wants.

"We had so many guys who were injured last year that I couldn't really do what I wanted," Kelly says. "I couldn't throw deep because there was no one to throw to. It was frustrating. We lost so many close games. We lost four games that we led going into the fourth quarter.

"This year, they're telling me we'll open it up, and that's good news. Coach Levy has a

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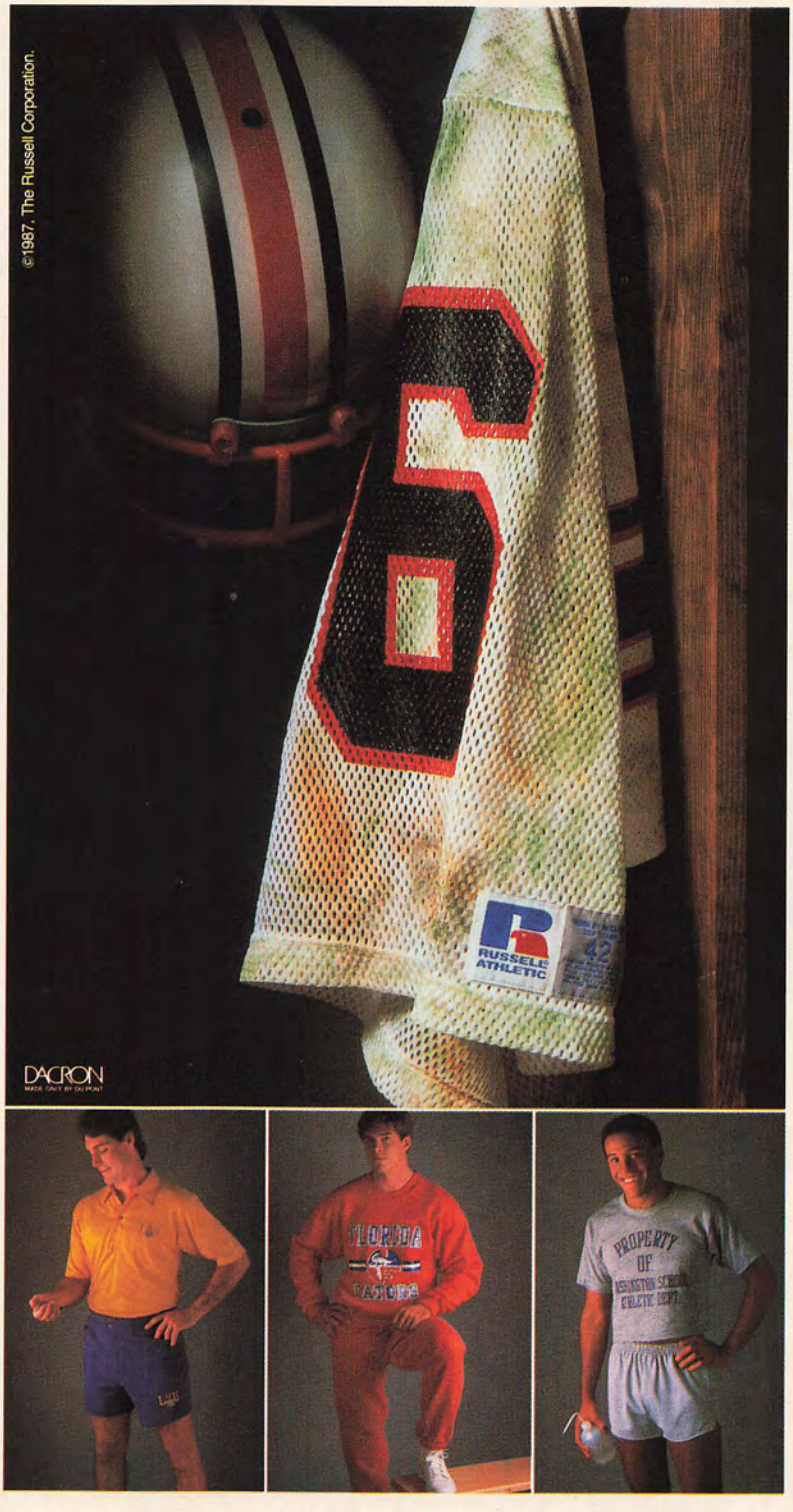

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(Buffalo continued)

great mind, and they've brought in Ted Marchibroda as the offensive coordinator. That's going to help. We need players, too, and there's a commitment to turning it around."

Levy has several priorities for upgrading the Bills. "People say, 'Aren't you going to get Jim Kelly some running backs and receivers?' and we will. But the best way to help a great quarterback is to get him a dominating defense. You want to help Terry Bradshaw, you get him the Steel Curtain. You want to make Dan Marino a championship quarterback, get him a defense. Last year we started so many drives deep in our own territory that I don't know how we got home before dark."

The Bills do have talent on offense. Unfortunately, two of the team's best players, running back Greg Bell and receiver Jerry Butler, were injured much of 1986. Both are healthy now and should provide some help.

Kelly's favorite target was second-year wide receiver Andre Reed, who led the Bills with 53 receptions for 739 yards and seven touchdowns. He, too, was slowed by injuries, particularly down the stretch. Second-year wide receiver Chris Burkett averaged 22.9 yards on 34 catches, fifth best in the NFL. Pete Metzelaars set a team record for tight ends with 49 catches for 485 yards. He was the only Buffalo player to catch at least one pass in every game.

Running back Robb Riddick had his best year as a professional. Pressed into full-time duty when Bell was hobbled with a groin injury, Riddick responded by gaining 632 yards in 150 carries and tied for second in team receptions with 49. Carl Byrum is the incumbent at fullback, but the Bills will be looking for help there. They're also hoping for increased production from running back Ronnie Harmon, the team's No. 1 draft choice, who saw spot duty last year. His production was cut by injuries but he figures heavily in Levy's plans.

When Kelly came to camp, he was not particularly complimentary toward his offensive line, but that unit had a reasonable year. It stayed fairly healthy, though it did give up 45 sacks. There were two rookie starters, Kent Hull at center and Will Wolford at right guard, so the unit should improve with age. Jim Ritcher and Joe Devlin were 16-game starters at left guard and right tackle respectively. Left tackle Ken Jones missed four games with a knee injury; Greg Christy or eight-year veteran Tim Vogler could figure there.

Defensively, Levy says his first priority is adding speed in the secondary. The Bills were pleased with rookie Dwight Drane at strong safety and 10-year veteran Charles Romes at cornerback. Free safety will see either Ron Pitts or Mark Kelso replacing traded Steve Freeman. Derrick Burroughs is the other cornerback.

End Bruce Smith, the first player selected in the 1985 draft, finally fulfilled his promise and was a sacking terror for the Bills with 15. That was just a half sack from the AFC leader, Sean Jones of the Raiders. Smith will be joined by left end Sean McNanie and nose tackle Fred Smerlas.

Linebacker Eugene Marve was marvelous with 156 tackles, 51 more than All-Pro Lawrence Taylor.

Ronnie Harmon: no soft-pedaling this season.

Levy also will be looking to bolster the linebacking corps led by inside linebacker Eugene Marve, who was Buffalo's leading tackler (156) for the third time in his five-year career. Ray Bentley and Jim Haslett will vie for a spot inside, with Darryl Talley and Lucius Sanford or Hal Garner on the outside.

The Bills finished last in the NFL on the takeaway/giveaway charts, coming up with 18 turnovers and giving up 39, a mark of minus 21. That will have to improve. So will the kicking game. Punter John Kidd had a net average of 34.5 yards and had only 14 kicks inside opponents' 20-yard lines. Kicker Scott Norwood led the team in scoring but made only 17 of 27 field-goal attempts. Harmon was just average as a kickoff returner. The Bills are still looking for a consistent punt returner.

Special teams are one of Levy's specialties, having coached them in Washington and Kansas City. But the Bills know that most of their success will be the result of Kelly's performance. And Kelly has no doubts about that.

"I'm looking forward to a great year," he says. "The Bills decided to go after some talent, and you're going to see a different team. Realistically, I think 9-7 is an achievable goal. We have a shot at the playoffs. I'll do everything I can to make it happen."

END

INDIANAPOLIS

They grew up in different time zones and on different coasts. One is a natural athlete with breathtaking speed, the other a self-made player who will never impress the computers. One was a relatively high draft choice, the other a college walk-on who was never drafted and made the team as an unheralded free agent.

And yet, Bill Brooks, the natural, and Matt Bouza, the overachiever, combined for 136 catches for the Indianapolis Colts in 1986, the first receiver duo in team history to exceed 60 receptions in the same season.

There was more. They were the only Colt receivers to catch passes in every game. They surpassed all other tandems in Colt history, including names like Raymond Berry, John Mackey, Willie Richardson and Roger Carr.

In those last three victories, Hogeboom completed 62 percent of his passes for 725 yards and six touchdowns, and the Colts outscored opponents 69–13 in the second half.

Brooks and Bouza accounted for 45 percent of the team's pass completions, 52 percent of touchdowns, 81 percent of scoring receptions and 34 percent of the points. Their 1,961 yards represented 54 percent of the Colts' passing offense and 41.7 percent of the total net yardage.

Unfortunately for this devastating duo, their accomplishments came in a season of almost total disaster for the Colts, a team that lost its first 13 games, had its head coach fired, then shot itself in the foot by winning the last three games and losing the No. 1 pick in the college draft.

But you won't find either Brooks or Bouza complaining. Both men firmly believe there are better days ahead for the franchise under new Coach Ron Meyer, particularly if quarterback Gary Hogeboom can stay injury-free. In those last three victories, Hogeboom completed 62 percent of his passes for 725 yards and six touchdowns, and the Colts outscored opponents 69-13 in the second half.

In truth, both Bouza and Brooks are delighted just to be playing professional football. Neither had given much indication that they would become one of the league's most feared receiving tandems in their first year together.

Bouza has always defied the football odds. He was not highly recruited out of high school and wound up as a walk-on at California, where he impressed his coaching staff but not pro scouts. He was productive at Cal, but injuries slowed him somewhat his junior and senior seasons (when he was nonetheless second-team All-Pac-10), and he was never that fast to begin with.

"We got a bonus when Matt walked on," says former California Coach Roger Theder. "He was instantly productive and smart enough that we could move him from wide-out to tight end, or any other position. I've still got training films showing him running routes. Then and now I see him doing things that other wide receivers simply cannot do.

"Matt's lack of quickness has always been pointed out. OK, so here's a wide receiver who doesn't run a 4.2 or 4.3 40, but he understands the game so well. He has such a great feeling for running routes; his blocking and control of the ball mean good concentration. He does so many things. Look at Raymond Berry. He wasn't known for his speed. And how many times have you seen Matt drop the ball?"

Not often. Still, Bouza knows there will always be skeptics, even after his stunning 1986 season.

"Let's face it," he says. "The scouts put a guy like me through the computer, and I come out kind of mangled. But I know I'm a player. I'm not great in the track events and the agility stuff they want you to do. But I make up for it in competitiveness. I always have."

Bouza made it through the San Francisco 49ers training camp his first season, in 1981, only to get cut after the first game. He sat out the rest of that season and signed with the Colts as a free agent in 1982. Before '86 he was used sparingly and

(continued)

Colts quarterback Gary Hogeboom has eyes usually for Matt Bouza and/or Bill Brooks when he scans the field.

COLTS
7
7

The Colts did little winning but they got a kick out of Rohn Stark.

Ray Donaldson's (53) best season was crowned by a Pro Bowl selection.

(Indianapolis continued)

never had more than 27 receptions a year in the Colts' run-oriented attack.

Rod Dowhower, who took over as coach in 1985, changed all that, particularly after the Colts obtained Hogeboom from the Dallas Cowboys. But disaster struck early last season when Hogeboom went down with a separated shoulder in the second game, and the Colts were forced to rely on rookie Jack Trudeau, who showed flashes of brilliance but was not the kind of field leader the Colts desperately needed. Trudeau more than occasionally irritated his teammates when he said quarterbacking was not the problem.

Bouza was a starter from the first game of '86 and quickly established himself as the Colts' most dependable possession receiver. He ran precise patterns, had an uncanny knack for finding seams in the defense, and was always available to make the big catch in a big crowd.

Brooks, on the other hand, began the season as a reserve receiver. He didn't start until the fifth game. The rookie speedster from Boston University wasn't picked until the fourth round, mostly because he had not played for a football powerhouse. But the more Dowhower saw of Brooks and his 4.4 speed, the more he liked him. "Billy does what all good receivers do," Dowhower said. "He catches the ball."

Brooks' receiving yardage (1,131) was the third-highest total for a rookie in NFL history. He was the third Colt receiver to better the 1000-yard mark.

"When I look back on the season now, it's hard to believe," Brooks says. "When I came to camp, my only concern was to make the team, even if it just meant waving a flag on the sidelines. I told them I'd do anything: punt returns, kickoffs, anything they asked.

"I still don't know why they put me in the starting lineup. I'm not the kind of person to ask. My first start was against the 49ers. Yeah, I was real nervous, but that was all right, I'm always nervous. After a while it became comfortable. But I never got used to the losing. That was real hard."

Both Brooks and Bouza were shocked when the Colts' volatile owner, Robert Irsay, fired Dowhower after the 13th loss. "We'd had so many injuries and so much bad luck, we figured Rod would get another year," Brooks says. "Some of the veterans told me they'd seen a lot worse things in pro ball."

Meyer arrived with a reputation as a stern taskmaster, a direct contrast to Dowhower, who believed that his players were professionals and should have been able to motivate themselves.

"All I said to the players was that this team had the talent to win and would win," Meyer says of his first team meeting. Clearly, he made them into believers, at least for a while.

The Colts ended their season by winning three straight over Atlanta, Buffalo and the Los Angeles Raiders, a clear sign that, despite all the adversity, the Colts aren't quitters.

"The thing about 0-13 was that every week we were really trying," Brooks says. "Of course, it was very discouraging, but we worked hard in practice and tried to forget about what happened the week before. Nobody wanted to throw in the towel. Heck, we just wanted to win one game."

The first day Meyer showed up, he noticed Hogeboom coming in out of the rain after throwing for 20 minutes. Meyer asked him how he felt, and when the quarterback told him he was doing well, the coach asked him if he could play. And play he did.

"Hogeboom is such a competitor," Bouza says. "He was virtually written off and he came back. He didn't have to do that, but that's the kind of athlete he is. I'm really looking forward to playing with him a full season. He's been with Dallas, he's played in championship games and he knows what it takes to get there. I just hope I'm still around when we get to that level, and I don't think it's going to take that long."

Still, the Colts have a long way to go before they start thinking about the playoffs, though there are talented players to build around.

Fullback Randy McMillan, who led the team in rushing (609 yards, 3.2 average) for the third straight year, suffered serious injuries to

his head and lower left leg (two broken bones) when struck by a car on April 26. He may miss the entire season.

Halfback George Wonsley will get competition from reserve Albert Bentley, who rushed for 162 yards against the Raiders in the final game, including a 70-yard game-breaking touchdown run.

Tight end Pat Beach averaged 10.6 yards receiving in 16 starts.

The offensive line featured two Pro Bowlers, tackle Chris Hinton and center Ray Donaldson, yet still gave up 53 sacks, fourth-highest total in the league. Right guard Ron Solt and tackle Kevin Call were 16-game starters. Ben Utt is at left guard. Hinton may be switched to a guard spot.

On defense, the Colts were inconsistent, particularly after injuries to free safety Anthony Young in preseason and strong safety Tommy Sims in the first game. When linebacker Barry Krauss went down with a career-threatening knee injury in Game 4, the Colts lost one of their team leaders as well. They're optimistic about his recovery, though.

The Colts were 25th in team defense, 17th against the run and 26th against the pass.

Determined to improve, the club picked consensus All-America linebacker Cornelius Bennett as the No. 2 selection in the draft.

Cornerback Leonard Coleman led the team with four interceptions, and nose tackle Harvey Armstrong had the most fumble recoveries (three), including two against the Raiders. Rookie defensive end Jon Hand totaled 82 tackles and had five sacks, two fumble recoveries, one interception and a blocked field goal. He could be a star of the future, along with second-year linebacker Duane Bickett. The latter led the team in unassisted tackles with 104, including a team-high six sacks, and was the Colts' Most Valuable Player. Bickett will be joined at linebacker by Johnie Cooks, Cliff Odom and, hopefully, Krauss.

Donnell Thompson started 16 games at left end. Joining Coleman in the secondary will be Eugene Daniel, John Holt and Nesby Glasgow.

Punter Rohn Stark made the Pro Bowl for the second straight year. Stark led the NFL in punting with a 45.2-yard average, and his net yardage of 37.2 was second. Placekicking was not so successful. Though Dean Biasucci led the team in scoring with 65 points, he made only 13 of 25 field-goal attempts.

The Colts head into the season convinced that they can be competitive in the AFC East. The schedule is not that imposing.

"I think all of us are really upbeat, especially after what happened at the end of the season," Bouza says. "We'll have Hogeboom for the whole season, and I believe we have a shot at beating every team on our schedule. All this team needs is a few breaks. As soon as we get things going our way, we're going to grab onto it and not let go."

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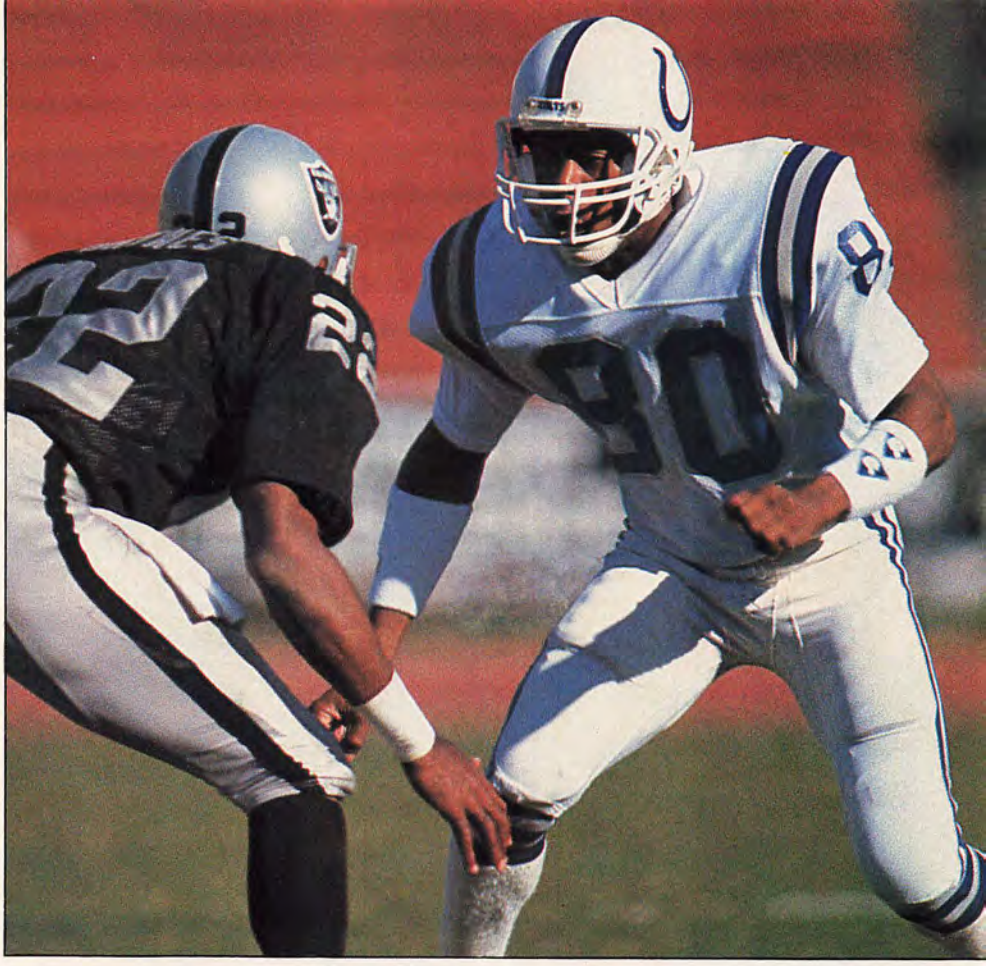

The look ahead for the Colts is encouraging with receivers like Brooks (above, 80) and Bouza (left), who combined for 136 catches, 1,961 yards and 13 TDs in 1986.

Week in and week out, Walter Abercrombie gives the Steelers a good job.

(Pittsburgh continued)

a former USFL safety, helped out, leading the AFC in kickoff returns (23.6-yard average) and getting three interceptions in three starts. Harvey Clayton is still developing as a corner with blazing speed. John Swain or Chris Sheffield is on the other side. Thirteen-year strong safety Donnie Shell, 34, returns as an inspirational leader with four Super Bowl rings. The rush line includes Keith Willis, who led the team with 12 sacks, Gary Dunn and Edmund Nelson, backed by rushing specialist Keith Gary. It needs an impact player. The unit has potential, although it was inconsistent and gave up too many easy yards.

Steeler fans have memories long enough to remember Terry Bradshaw and the way it was during the Super Bowl dynasty years.

A major question mark is defensive end Darryl Sims, the No. 1 draft pick in 1985, who must develop for Pittsburgh to be a factor in the AFC Central race. Sims had only one sack last year. The Steelers must also avoid another rash of injuries like the one that forced 13 players, seven of them starters, to miss at least three games.

While the Steelers have shuffled the deck from the scouting department to special teams, the feeling persists that they will never make a run for the division title until the quarterback position is upgraded. Malone, who is entering his eighth season, only seems to confuse the issue with his in-and-out performances. A 51 percent passer in his career, Malone has a 48-49 touchdown-to-interception ratio that has provoked jeers from the home fans. Malone threw for 2,444 yards in 1986 despite his excellent showing late in the season. Had he been able to average what he did in the last three games, his total would have been 4,117. The odds of young Bubby Brister beating out Malone are rather slim.

Ironically, the only certainty as the Steelers head to training camp at St. Vincent College, with its Spartan atmosphere, is a productive running game. But this is an era when teams win with the pass and the so-called cheap touchdown from 50 yards out. Consider the AFC playoff teams and their ranking in rushing offense last season: New York Jets, 18th; Denver, 20th; Cleveland, 22nd; Kansas City, 27th; and New England, 28th.

The Steelers finished ahead of them all in rushing but trailed them all in passing. It doesn't help Malone that Steeler fans have memories long enough to remember Terry Bradshaw and the way it was during the Super Bowl dynasty years.

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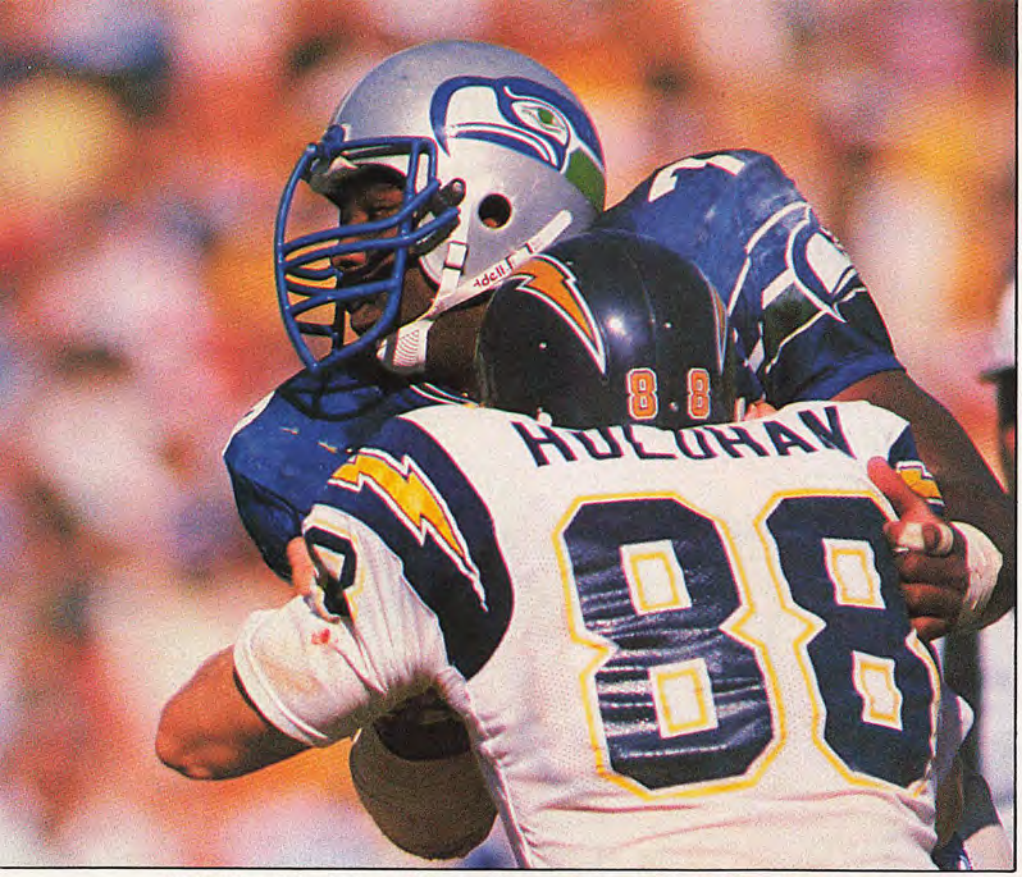

Seahawk end Jacob Green holds up Charger tight end Pete Holohan. Or is it vice versa?

(Seattle continued)

games and finished the year with five consecutive wins, scoring 31 or more points against the Los Angeles Raiders (37-0), Dallas (31-14) and AFC champion Denver Broncos. But midway through the year the Seahawks hit a puzzling slump and lost four in a row.

It might have been difficult to assign blame, but Knox suggested a remedy when he benched Krieg in favor of Gale Gilbert.

Gilbert wasn't able to steer the Seahawks out of that rut, and Krieg returned.

"You can't blame the slump all on Dave," Warner says. "We would drop third-down completions. Unfortunately, it all came down on his head. Steve and I went over to him (just before an impressive Thanksgiving win at Dallas) and said, 'Mudbone, you're the field general. We'll do whatever you say.' "

Krieg and the Seahawks never looked back after that and are now looking ahead to extend that five-game winning streak this fall.

During the '86 slump there was speculation that Largent might retire. But at a January banquet, where he was saluted as Seattle's Sports Star of the Year, he said, "I won't be back at the banquet next year. Next January, I'll still be playing football."

With 1,070 yards in '86, Largent has completed eight seasons with at least 1000 yards receiving, an NFL record. He has caught at least 50 passes in nine seasons, and he has currently caught at least one pass in 139 straight games, both league marks. His 694 career catches is second to Charlie Joiner's 750.

Byron Franklin was the only other Seattle receiver with more than half as many yards (547) as Largent last year. Franklin had knee surgery in December that may keep him out this season. Daryl Turner (admirers say the D.T. stands for Deep Threat) pulled in seven touchdown receptions, and wide receiver Paul Skansi (12.3-yard average) was an important part of the Seahawks' late-season turnaround.

Can Seattle's defense, unexpectedly vulnerable in '86, support the team's diversified offense, which ranked third in the AFC last year?

The return of former All-Pro strong safety Kenny Easley from injury and surgery should help. Free safety Eugene Robinson had 99 tackles and three fumble recoveries. Veteran cornerback Dave Brown had an erratic season but finished with five interceptions. Terry Taylor is the other corner.

Pro Bowl end Jacob Green has had 10 or more sacks for four consecutive seasons and is the anchor of the line, which includes Jeff Bryant at right end and nose tackle Joe Nash.

Inside linebacker Fredd Young led the team with 121 tackles and made his third straight Pro Bowl appearance. He is joined inside by Keith Butler (96 tackles). The outside linebackers, Bruce Sholtz and Greg Gaines, combined for 173 tackles.

Kicker Norm Johnson's play mirrored that of his teammates. He was brilliant at times and kicked the four longest field goals in the AFC with a 54-yarder and three of 53 yards.

Yet in the opening game, when Edmonds had his great day against Pittsburgh, Johnson missed three field-goal attempts and a conversion kick.

After that game Knox summarized the special teams' play. "Bobby Joe Edmonds is outstanding," he said, "but we've got to take the suspense out of our field-goal kicking."

At the end of the season, Johnson had tied two NFL records for consistency at long range.

The fare on some of his kicks was estimated to be as high as $15.75. Or at least that would have been the tab if the ball had traveled that far in a chauffeured limousine.

END

Curt Warner's runs aren't always models of ball-carrying technique, but they aren't bad for distance.

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(Cincinnati continued)

to home. Besides, some schools had projected him as a defensive back. And who could blame them? As a college freshman, he weighed 156 pounds. But soon he was hitting all of the right holes behind Andrews and, later, Cribbs.

Brooks, who now weighs 182, shrugs off the issue of size. "I'll never be big," he says, "but I'm tough. I think I can play as long as I want to, and I'm glad to be in Cincinnati."

Credit a big, mobile line for opening holes and protecting the quarterback (only 28 sacks).

Brooks, Esiason, Collinsworth and third-year flanker Eddie Brown are impact players who had impressive seasons. Esiason completed 273 of 469 passes for 3,959 yards (a club record) and 24 touchdowns. Collinsworth had 62 catches for 1,024 yards and 10 TDs, and Brown had 58 catches for 964 yards (16.6-yard average) and four TDs.

Credit a big, mobile line for opening holes and protecting the quarterback (only 28 sacks). The huge unit includes Pro Bowlers Anthony Munoz (6-6, 278) and Max Montoya (6-5, 275), Dave Rimington (6-3, 288), Brian Blados (6-5, 295) and Bruce Kozerski (6-4, 275). Backups include Bruce Reimers (6-7, 280) and Joe Walter (6-6, 290).

Rodney Holman, a sixth-year tight end, is vastly underrated, and 258-pound fullback Larry Kinnebrew can still blast open holes from tackle to tackle when he's included in the game plan.

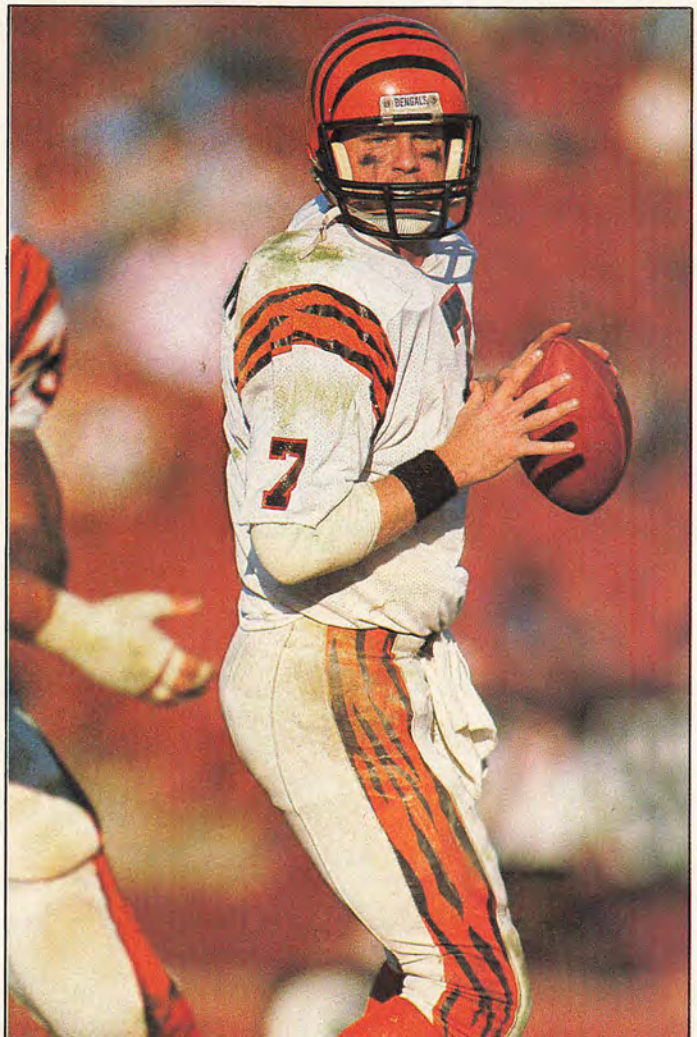
Cincinnati can score quickly. But the defense gave up 394 points, fifth-highest total in the league, and intercepted only 17 passes.

Linebackers Emanuel King, Joe Kelly and Carl Zander, nose tackle Tim Krumrie, and second-year defensive backs Lewis Billups and David Fulcher are young, promising players around whom the defense should improve. Robert Jackson emerged as the starter at free safety in '86, and cornerback Louis Breeden had a good year with seven interceptions. Ross Browner seems to have lost a step and a move or two at right end.

Age is becoming a factor in the defense. Linebacker Reggie Williams, end Eddie Edwards and Breeden will begin their 13th, 11th and 10th seasons respectively in '87.

Cincinnati's special teams weren't anything to brag about, either. Punter Jeff Hayes had a 35.1-yard average. Two punts were blocked. Kicker Jim Breech made only 17 of 32 field-goal tries after a 24-for-33 season in 1985. The Bengals ranked 21st in punt coverage (9.6-yard average) and 17th in kickoff coverage (20.1-yard average). The only optimistic note was Tim McGee's 23.4-yard average on 43 kickoff returns, fourth-best in the NFL.

END



When Cris Collinsworth (above) is Boomer Esiason's primary receiver, odds of a completion increase.

This 35mm picture was taken by a photographer on location.

This 35mm picture was taken by an accountant on vacation.

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How Another Strike Can Be Avoided: Harmony

by Leonard Shapiro

Just when the National Football League gets rid of one pesky problem, along comes another.

Gone and almost forgotten is the United States Football League, a noble four-year experiment that won $3 ($1.69 billion had been sought) in a court of law and dropped millions on the playing field. So just when the NFL could expect peace in its time, here comes the 1,600-member NFL Players Association and its demands for a bigger slice of the pie, and free agency as well.

The old collective bargaining agreement between union and management expires Aug. 31, and no agreement was expected until later this summer. The usual saber-rattling was expected on both sides. Formal labor talks began in April.

Actually, there is some good news in all of this. Relations between the league and the union have improved in recent years. Former union executive director Ed Garvey resigned in 1983 to launch a political career in Wisconsin. His replacement, former All-Pro Gene Upshaw, has been more conciliatory in his relationship with Jack Donlan, executive director of the NFL Management Council, who did not get along with Garvey. "Gene is pro-player; Ed was anti-management," says Donlan.

"The players wanted this type of change where we talk with the other side to see if there is a better way to reach the end result," Upshaw says. "They wanted less fighting."

Rhetoric is always part of the bargaining process, but this year each side seems willing to debate the issues and arrive at an honest settlement.

Los Angeles Raider tight end Todd Christensen says, "Gene wants to do things together with management and not play this power game."

The players' situation is far different than in 1982, when they went on strike for 57 days in a dispute that centered on total NFL revenue. The union didn't get a guaranteed percentage of the gross it wanted, but it did get a guaranteed amount—$1.6 billion. Five years ago, the average salary was about $90,000 a man; in 1987, the average player earns $218,000, thanks in large part to the USFL and two years of salary wars for the best available talent.

NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle will continue to crack down on flagrant roughness.

The players' top priority is unrestricted free agency. There may be a compromise in that issue, improving the system. There is talk of settling on a drug-testing plan satisfactory to both sides. The union opposes random testing. Other key issues pressed by the union include guaranteed contracts and improved pensions, and job security for player representatives and union officials.

The owners have already made their position on total free agency and fully guaranteed contracts quite clear: no to both. Says Upshaw to that: "It doesn't disturb me now. If they feel this way in late August, we'll have a big problem."

Though the player representatives voted, during their March convention, to seek a strike authorization from the entire membership, both sides say a strike would probably be disastrous and should be avoided at all costs. "We can't afford another strike," says Cleveland Owner Art Modell. "We're still recovering from the last one. I think a lot of us have to realize that there has to be some compromise in the negotiations. Neither side can get everything it wants."

The NFL got almost everything it wanted in a new television contract hammered out in March, an agreement that includes cable television in the package for the first time in league history. The three-year, $1.428 billion pact will guarantee each team about $17 million a season for the next three years. That is down about 3.5 percent from the $17.5 million each team got last season, but in a slumping sports television market, the NFL was happy to stay at virtually the same fiscal level. Last year, ratings on the three networks had dropped (one as much as five percent), and advertisers were not happy.

Commissioner Pete Rozelle, noting that the league's TV revenues had increased from $69 million to $493 million over the last 10 years, says, "That was a tremendous escalation that,

(continued)

(NFL Report continued)

in effect, came back and haunted us this time."

Added Modell, "We are the creme de la creme of sports on television, but obviously there is a choking point."

The ESPN cable network was a major winner in the new contract. The network bought a three-year, 13-game package, which includes eight Sunday night games during the second half of the regular season and the Pro Bowl. ESPN will pay $51 million a year. ABC retained the rights to 16 Monday night games. The rotation for televising Super Bowls remains the same. ABC will handle Super Bowl XXII, followed by NBC and CBS.

"This TV contract is indicative of what's to come," said San Francisco owner Edward DeBartolo. "I think with both the networks and cable we could put together a package in 1990 that could be staggering. I don't think we'll go totally to cable, but you never know."

The networks also will continue to play a significant role in another area, as well. League owners voted in March to extend last year's controversial instant replay experiment for one more year. The decision was 21-7, the bare three-fourths majority needed. It very nearly was defeated until Rozelle changed the original proposal from a two-year experiment to one.

The replay system will stay virtually the same as in 1986, when only 38 of 374 plays reviewed were overturned by an NFL replay official in the press box. Still, there were a number of complaints, including a long delay in the Super Bowl game because no replay was available on a controversial catch by Denver's Clarence Kay that was ruled incomplete. Nine minutes after the game had continued, CBS came up with the play, far too late to overrule an incorrect call on the field.

The owners made few other significant changes, though they did alter the rules slightly to further protect quarterbacks from late hits. They listened to expansion pitches from Phoenix, Memphis, Oakland, Jacksonville and Sacramento. However, expansion is still considered several seasons away.

In the off-season, there also was lots of talk and very little action on two lingering controversies from the 1986 season: the use of steroids and what seemed to be an inordinate number of cheap shots and generally dirty play. Rozelle has said the league would like to test for steroids, drugs with dangerous side effects used to build body bulk and muscle, but the players say they want to negotiate that issue.

Rozelle issued a number of fines and suspensions last year for dirty play. He has said he will continue to discipline players if rough stuff continues. On that, both he and Upshaw are in agreement.

"Officials should control the game," Upshaw says. "Rozelle has suspended players in the past. He might do it again. It can be controlled."

NFL owners agreed unanimously to pay benefits to five-year veterans who played part or all of their careers before 1959, when there was no league pension. Players will get $60 a month for each year in the NFL. Thus, Sammy Baugh of the Washington Redskins (1937-52), who played 16 seasons, will get $960 a month, $11,520 annually. The plan is estimated to cost $40 million and will benefit up to 948 former players. A pension plan for pre-1959 players had been one of the demands of the Players Association in a new contract.

But all the football action won't take place in meetings and negotiations. On the field, a number of familiar faces will return, and the balance of power is not expected to change all that much. The New York Giants were the dominating team in the league and will be trying to put together back-to-back Super Bowl titles for the first time since the Steelers did it in the late 1970s.

The Chicago Bears are hoping that Jim McMahon's shoulder will heal so that he can regain his starting quarterback position. If not, Doug Flutie will be the man.

In the NFC, Washington, Dallas, Minnesota, the Los Angeles Rams and the Bears seem to be solid playoff contenders, and if you're looking for possible sleepers, try Buddy Ryan's Philadelphia Eagles and Jim Mora's New Orleans Saints. In the AFC, Miami, New England and the New York Jets are contenders, and if the Bills find help for Jim Kelly, the highest-paid player in the league, they might surprise, too. Cleveland, Cincinnati and Denver are solid playoff teams. If the Los Angeles Raiders come up with a quarterback, they could be dangerous after an 8-8 season. Watch Seattle surge this year, and Kansas City, too, under new and popular Coach Frank Gansz.

There are other new coaches in Atlanta (Marion Campbell), Tampa Bay (Ray Perkins), Buffalo (Marv Levy), Indianapolis (Ron Meyer, who took over in time to win the last three games in 1986) and San Diego (Al Saunders). For most of those teams, though, it should be the same old story, second-division finishes this year with talk about rebuilding for the future.

The league is loaded with fine young quarterbacks: Bernie Kosar, Dan Marino, John Elway, Phil Simms, Boomer Esiason, Jay Schroeder and Kelly, to name just a few. And running backs like Herschel Walker, Eric Dickerson, Kelvin Bryant and Marcus Allen should step lively again. There also is a new breed of big, strong, game-breaking receivers, people like Al Toon, Jerry Rice and Art Monk.

Then there are the real veterans, some nearing 40. Could this be the end of the line for Dan Fouts, Jim Plunkett, Ken Anderson, Ron Jaworski, Walter Payton, Tony Dorsett, John Stallworth, Dave Butz and Joe Klecko?

Retirees this year include Mark Moseley, Steve Bartkowski, Rubin Carter, Tom Jackson, Michael Jackson and Mark Dennard.

END

(Bum Bright continued)

Sherrill—for a salary larger than what the university president was making. Sherrill was perhaps the country's brightest young coach at the time (his record in five previous years at Pittsburgh was 50-9-1), but his financial package, valued at $267,000 a year, set off a storm of criticism about A&M's preoccupation with football over academics.

But Bright doesn't back down from his detractors. "When I was chairman of the board of regents, I worked hard for all the university to improve," he says. "Just because we paid a football coach a lot of money doesn't mean we de-emphasized other parts of the school. And I also knew that if we created a winning image at A&M, we would create the kind of alumni support and national attention that would help build the university."

Bright was right about the winning. Sherrill has led the Aggies to the last two Southwest Conference titles.

Meanwhile, despite the attention now paid to him, Bright continues to work 12-hour days. He hasn't taken a vacation in over a decade. He says he's too busy. Ironically, while other well-known Dallas empire builders are working feverishly to save their fortunes, Bright is joyfully looking forward to the next opportunity to expand. The Cowboys, for all their glamour, are just one more notch on his list of acquisitions. At an age when he should be enjoying the fruits of his labors, he continues to push for more.

"Listen," he says, "I'll tell you what it is about me. I'm still afraid of going broke. I stayed up and worried about it until 3 a.m. the other night. Don't ask me why. I've been broke once, and I don't want it to happen again."

And with that, Bright excuses himself and returns to his work. He will keep hoarding his money, spending little on himself, saving everything. No matter how important he might be, he still looks for all the world like an old oil field worker who can't get used to the idea that his job is to sit in an air-conditioned office.

END

Solution to crossword puzzle on page 96.

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(Sack Attack continued)

guard outside or using a tight end on Taylor's side. The Giants turned him loose against the passer in their Super Bowl year twice as often as they did the previous season. The result was spectacular: Besides 20½ sacks, he had 116 pressures, or near-sacks. Spotting Philadelphia quarterback Ron Jaworski, whom he had sacked four times last year, at a banquet, Taylor quipped, "It's nice to see you standing, Ron."

Taylor claims he was slower and more tired in '86, but it didn't appear that way to defensive coordinator Bill Belichick. "He still looked physically dominating to me," says Belichick. "But he was also more attentive in meetings and better prepared. Lawrence had just a terrific season."

Denver end Rulon Jones also had a terrific year as a blind-side rusher. His 13½ sacks brought his seven-year total to 61½. Jones may have the quickest rush move in the league, maybe even quicker than Joe "Turkey" Jones, a noted pass rusher of the 1970s, who got to the passer consistently in 2.1 seconds. Yet Rulon Jones thinks sacks are overrated as a defensive statistic.

"There's too much emphasis on it," he says. "I love to sack the quarterback, but the harassment, the constant pressure might lead to a pick (interception). I look at a guy like Howie Long. Sure, his teammates were getting a lot of sacks. And they're all good ball players. But they're not the player he is. He's the guy who flushes out the quarterback."

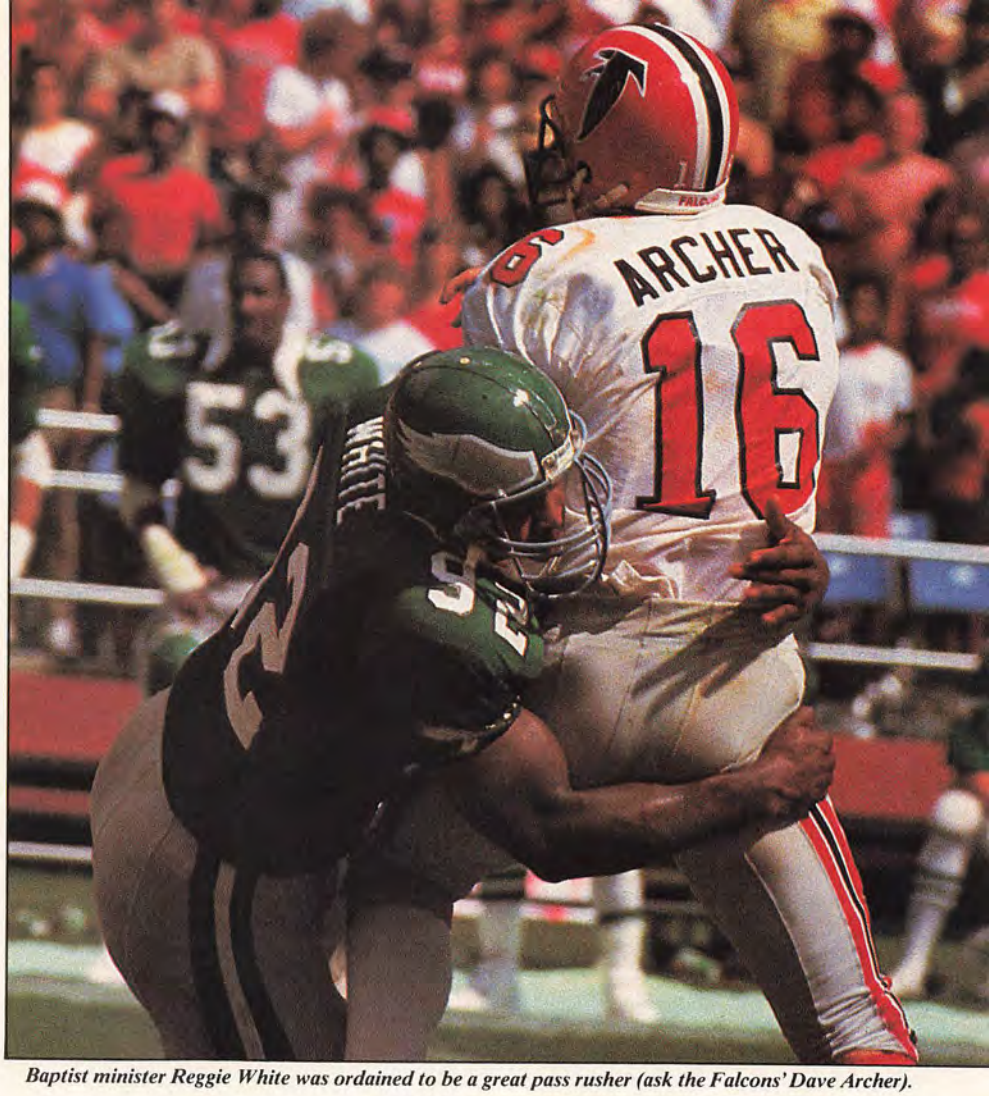
Modesty aside, Jones got the ultimate sack in last year's AFC playoff against New England. Ending a five-game sackless streak, Jones dumped Tony Eason in the end zone for a safety with 1:37 left, wrapping up the Broncos' 22-17 win. Says Cleveland offensive tackle Cody Risien, a Pro Bowler, of Jones: "He ducks, he spins, he crawls. Anything to get to the quarterback."

The Broncos shuffled Jones from one end to the other late in the season. Behind him, they spotted Karl Mecklenburg up and down as a combination linebacker-end. Mecklenburg finished with 9½ sacks (two-year total: 22½).

"I'm a generalist in a world of specialists," says Mecklenburg. "I'm not great at any one thing, but I think I'm a decent lineman, a decent linebacker. That confuses other teams. You have to set things up. I'll run real hard at a guy for two or three plays. I know I can't overpower him but I'll try. Then, when he's getting up on his toes to stop me right at the line of scrimmage, I'll run right around him."

Philadelphia's Reggie White totaled a club record 18 sacks, using a variety of moves and a straight-ahead power rush. "I play football for the glory of the Lord," says the 6-5 end, an ordained Baptist minister. "I consider myself a missionary and the football field is my ministry."

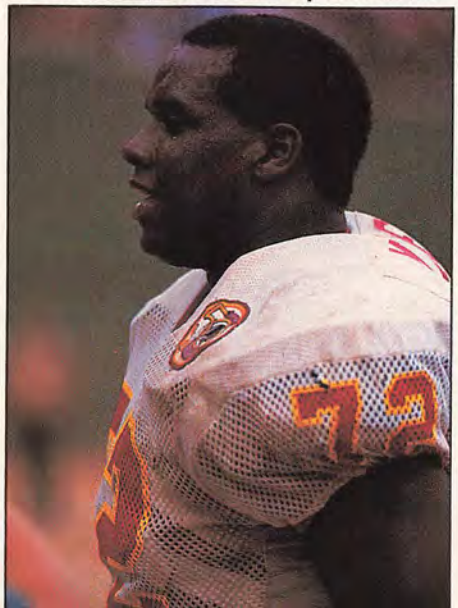
Teammate Greg Brown, who held the previous Eagles sack record of 16, had a nine-sack year. Brown, a former Washington, D.C., construction worker, was discovered near a concrete mixer in 1981. He was signed as a 220-pound free agent, bulked up to 265 within three years and developed into the team's quickest rusher.



Baptist minister Reggie White was ordained to be a great pass rusher (ask the Falcons' Dave Archer).

Almost unnoticed last year was a solid sack performance by Buffalo end Bruce Smith, the No. 1 pick in the 1985 draft. Smith accounted for 15 sacks, living up to his college reputation as an impact player.

Dexter Manley rates with the top NFL sackers.



"In the pros, you have to be like a machine," says Smith. "When they flip the switch, you have to be ready to turn it on. It's just as simple as that. But in college, the switch is sometimes kind of halfway on, halfway off. There's a lot I had to learn. For instance, in passing situations, the offensive lineman will sometimes move his hand or turn his feet a fraction of a second before the ball is snapped. It's a trick to get you to jump offsides."

When sack specialist Fred Dean was dropped, the San Francisco 49ers began searching for another pass-rusher. Charles Haley, a rangy collegiate linebacker, emerged as Dean's successor. Drafted as a fourth-rounder, Haley bulked up to 230 pounds and became the 49ers' speed rusher. As a rookie, he contributed 12 of the 49ers' 51 sacks.

"Yeah, I've heard that some people compare my moves and stuff to Fred Dean," says Haley. "But that's just because he was a star here. I'm sure the similarities are only slight, although I hope some day to be nearly as good. Quickness and agility are my best things. End, linebacker—heck, I don't care where they play me. I just love defense."

The quick, penetrating move to the pocket by the Lawrence Taylors and Dexter Manleys of the league had its painful effect on quarterbacks last season. Such talented veterans as

(continued)

Nobody is going to turn Howie Long's head; he's his own worst critic.

(Sack Attack continued)

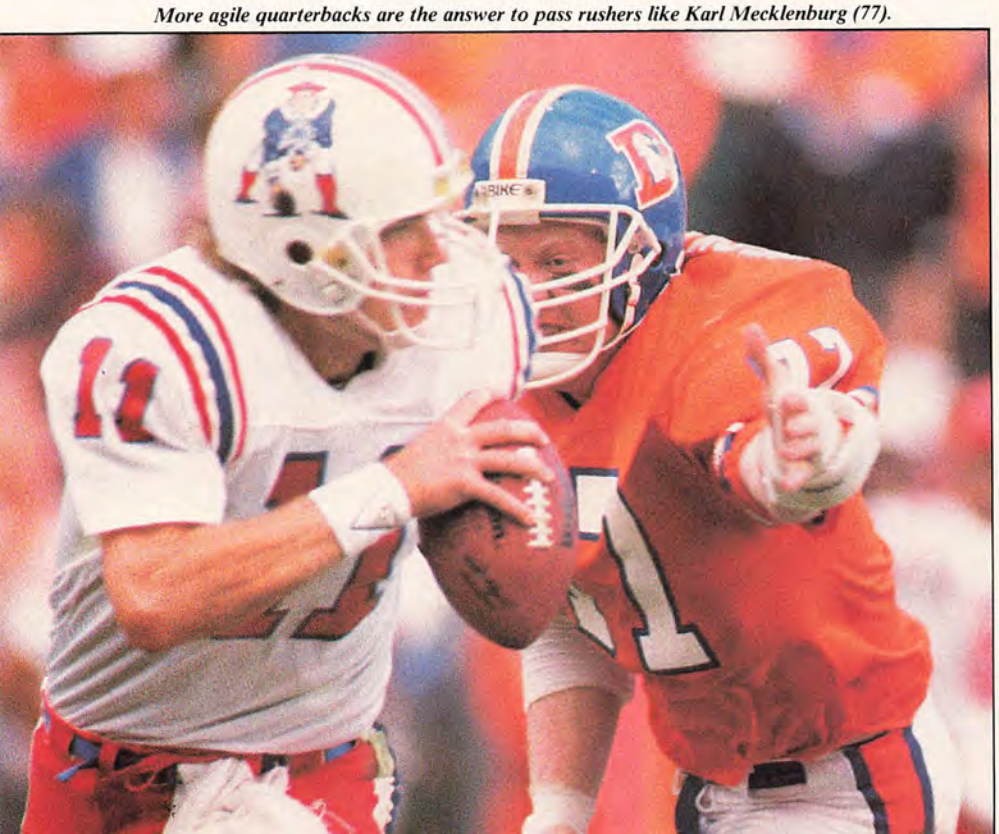
Joe Montana, Danny White, Tommy Kramer, Jim McMahon, Mark Malone, Dan Fouts and Jaworski were injured, mostly as a direct result of fierce pass rushes.

"Maybe, someday, someone will develop a suit of armor, the kind that you can throw in," says the Cowboys' White, injecting a bit of humor into the issue. "Other than that, I have no answers."

Pocket quarterbacks were the victims most of the time. But Giants nose tackle Jim Burt knocked out San Francisco's Montana, a noted scrambler, with a power move up the middle. With quarterbacks going down in bunches, the hue and cry for rule changes to protect the passer grew louder and more frequent. But Jerry Wampfler, Green Bay's offensive line coach, isn't asking for any favors.

"I hope they keep the sack in," says Wampfler. "All they've got to do is enforce rules they already have. We're not trying to prove how tough somebody is; how tough he is to take a hit from the blind side, anyway. That's sort of a masochistic approach, if somebody says that.

More agile quarterbacks are the answer to pass rushers like Karl Mecklenburg (77).



If you're not allowed to get to the passer every down, it'll become a pillow fight. If they outlaw the sack, that's what will happen. The defense will just start dropping everybody off."

The Raiders' Long, unchallenged as the best tackler-rusher in the game, says he doesn't want to be judged on his sack total. "I'm not great at every phase of the game," says Long, "but I try to be good at everything. I'm my own worst critic. I see guys who are having the big sack years, and I judge them down in and down out. Few people play both the run and the pass. The only positive I'll throw my way is that I have to be the most versatile guy at my position."

"It's absolutely unreal, the things that teams try to do to him," says Raiders nose tackle Bill Pickel. "They're kicking him, hitting him, holding him. Someone's even tried to bite him."

Rushers like Long and Taylor have created more of a demand for agile quarterbacks like Montana, who have a big edge in avoiding today's speed sackers. "If the quarterback is mobile, he's got more room to avoid the rusher," says Clausen. "There is a bigger pocket to move around in. The mobile quarterback can slide away from the rusher."

Clausen recalls that before the jam rule, sacks often came as the result of two or three rushers playing meet me at the quarterback. "That doesn't happen as much as it used to," he says. "The sack today is more of a lone, one-shot end that rushes, and he's going to get the quarterback. You don't see many sacks where the whole defensive line is involved. Now it's the individualized sacks that one guy makes. The rusher in the best position for this is the right end. He has a bigger advantage now because the quarterback can't see the right end. The end can get him to the ground before he knows it. For that matter, all he has to do is get him in his grasp, and it's a sack."

What makes a good pass rusher? "Number one, he's got to have great speed, particularly an outside rusher," says Clausen. "The really fast rusher still has the advantage. If a guy is going to jam a rusher, he's got to find a spot where he can hit him. And it's hard to find a place to stop the fast ones. The pass rusher has got to have good body lean and acceleration, too. He runs with his body laid out in front of him. Claude Humphrey had the perfect body lean of a pass rusher. You can always accelerate from a lean-out position. So the good pass rushers have great speed, acceleration and a runner's body lean. The only other factor would be fairly long arms."

Clausen's team had only 26 sacks last year, the third-lowest in the league. Accordingly, Atlanta hired Humphrey, a 10-year Falcon who finished in Philadelphia, as an assistant coach to teach their young linemen the art of pass rushing. If they can pick up Humphrey's moves and tenacity, the Falcons will be tough on quarterbacks next season.

END

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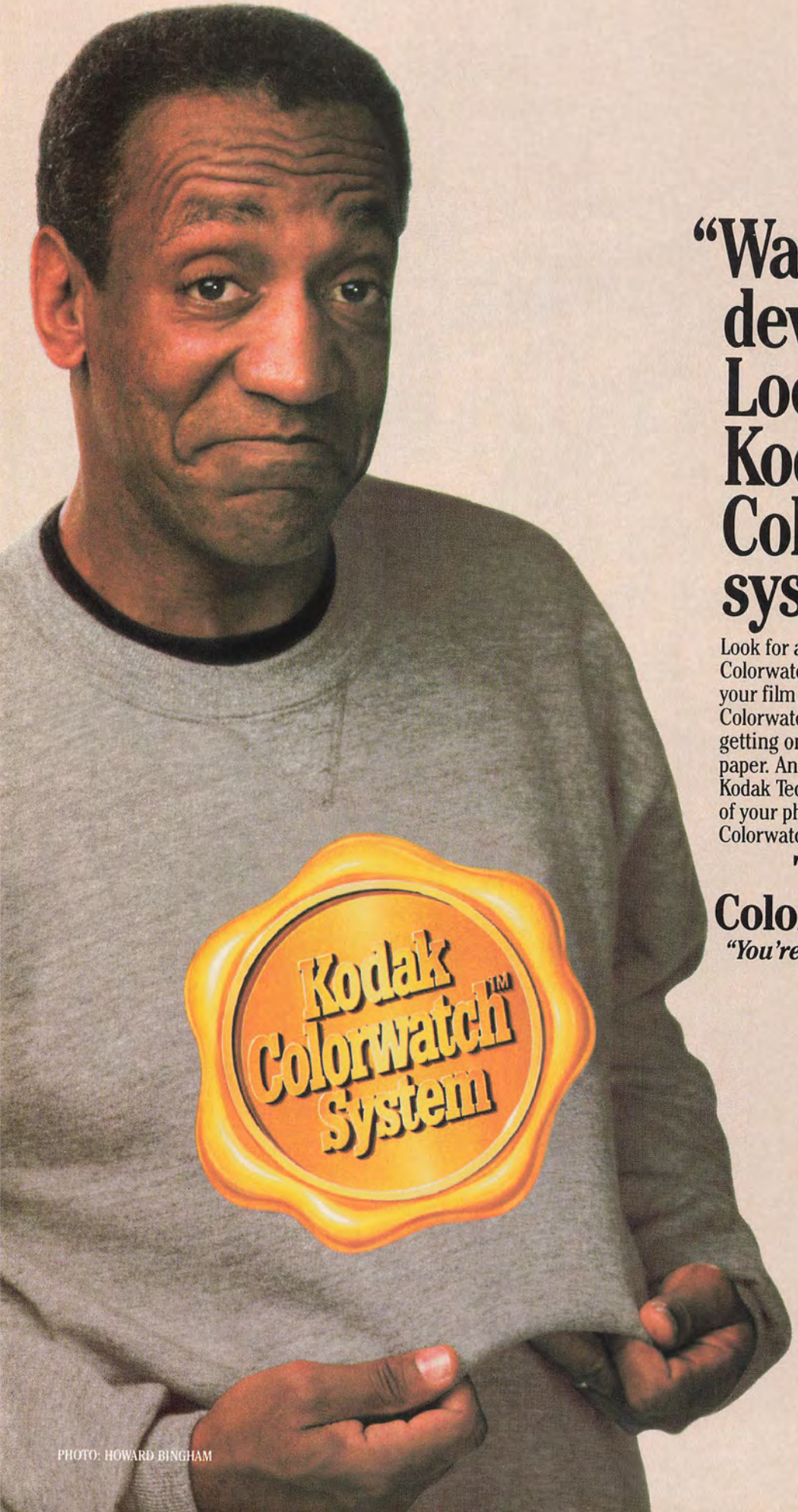

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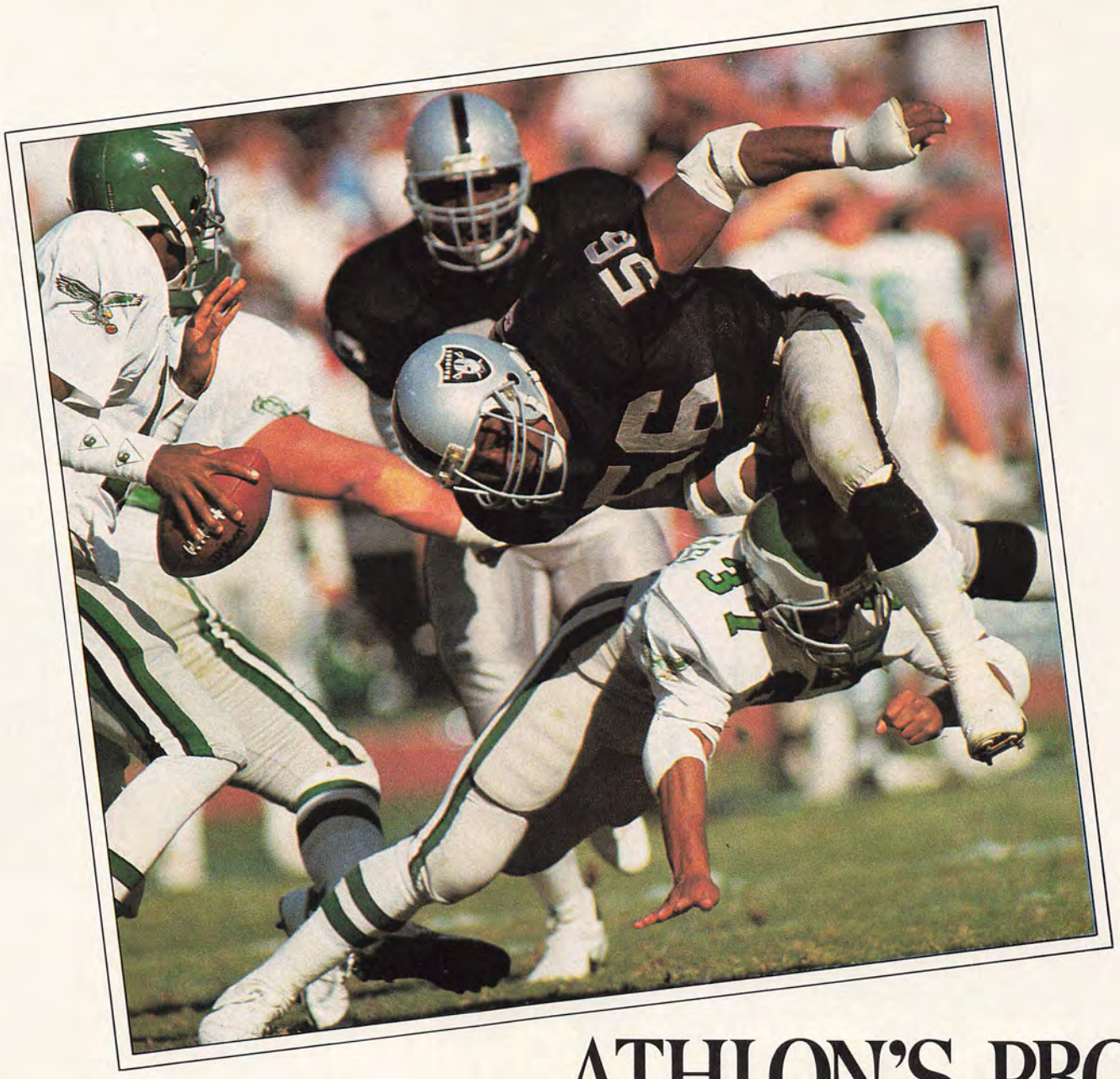

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Athlon has always been proud to bring you an annual that's chock-full of the year's best football photography.

This year, we're pleased to introduce a special new feature—to recognize the one photo that we believe captures the drama and intensity of the game better than any other.

The picture above, taken at the Raiders-Eagles game at the Los Angeles Coliseum last Nov. 30, was selected by our editorial staff as the Pro Photo of the Year. It was taken by JOHN SOOHOO, a free-lance photographer from Los Angeles. This is his first year as an *Athlon* contributor.

SooHoo's striking photo offers a rare quarterback's-eye view of an oncoming pass rush, as well as a hint of the enormous contribution made by that most unsung of NFL heroes, the blocking back.

SooHoo captures the precise moment of impact as Philadelphia's Junior Tautalatasi upends Raiders linebacker Jeff Barnes—much to the relief of Eagles quarterback Randall Cunningham.

Tautalatasi's statistics were five carries for minus-three yards and four receptions for 19 yards. But, as the picture vividly demonstrates, statistics alone could not measure the value of his efforts.

Though the Raiders, who led the NFL with 63 sacks last year, trapped Cunningham 10 times, blocks like Tautalatasi's kept the blitzing Los Angeles defense at bay just long enough for the Eagles' quarterback to complete 22 of 39 throws for 298 yards and three touchdowns.

And that unsung effort by Tautalatasi just may have helped make the difference in a wild, seesaw game. The Eagles won in overtime 33–27.

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Edited by Charlie Miller

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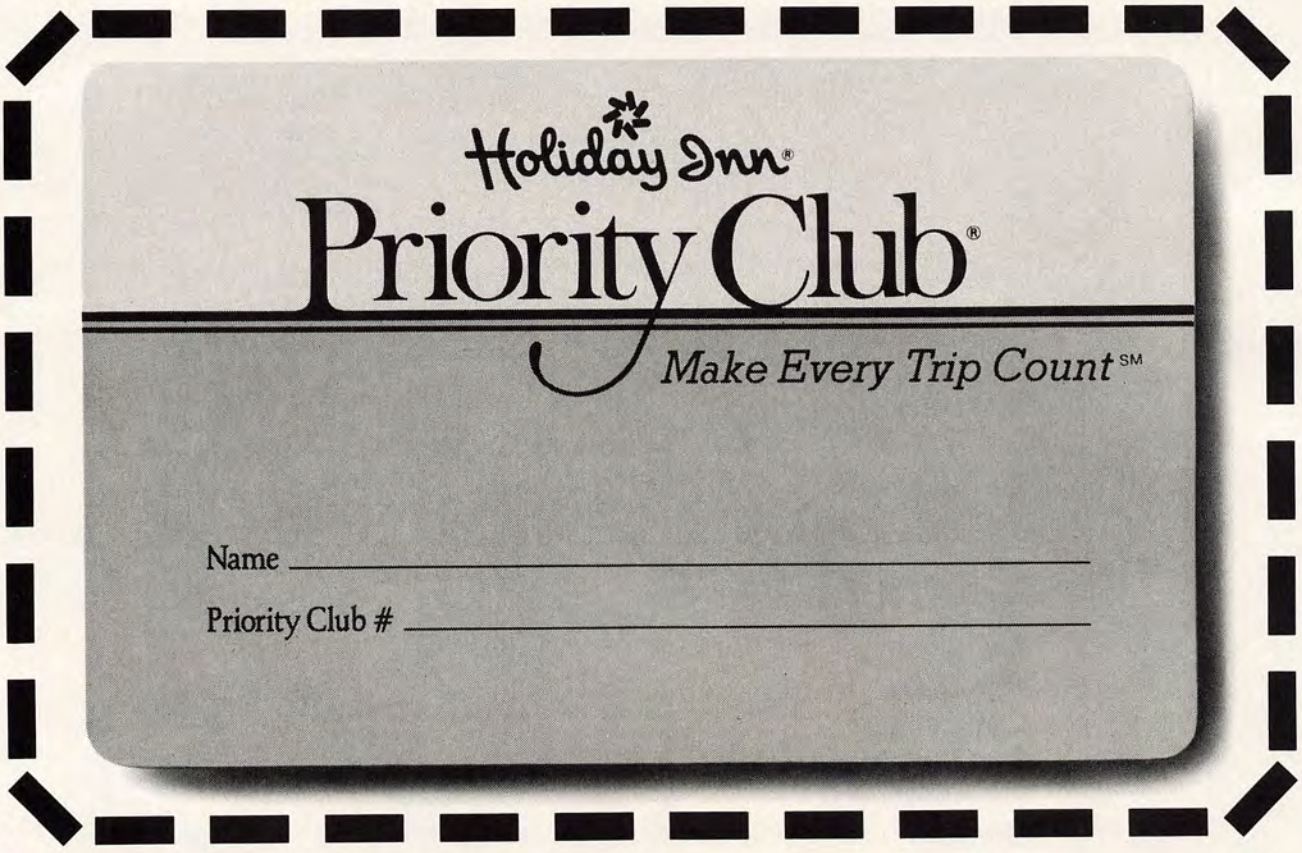

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ATLANTA FALCONS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
85	Allen, Anthony	WR	5–11	182	3	Wash.
31	Andrews, William	RB	6–0	220	7	Auburn
16	Archer, Dave	QB	6–2	208	4	Iowa St.
39	Austin, Cliff	RB	6–1	213	5	Clemson
82	Bailey, Stacey	WR	6–0	157	6	S. Jose St.
26	Britt, James	CB	6–0	185	5	LSU
52	Brown, Aaron	LB	6–2	238	5	Ohio St.
89	Brown, Charlie	WR	5–10	184	6	S.C. State
77	Bryan, Rick	DE	6–4	265	4	Oklahoma
23	Butler, Bobby	CB	5–11	182	7	Fla. St.
10	Campbell, Scott	QB	6–0	195	4	Purdue
25	Case, Scott	CB	6–0	178	4	Oklahoma
75	Casillas, Tony	NT	6–3	280	2	Oklahoma
20	Cason, Wendell	CB	5–11	197	3	Oregon
28	Clark, Bret	S	6–3	198	2	Nebraska
56	Costello, Joe	LB	6–3	250	2	C. Conn. St.
88	Cox, Arthur	TE	6–2	262	5	Texas So.
30	Croudip, David	CB	5–8	185	4	S. Diego St.
50	Curry, Buddy	LB	6–4	222	8	N.C.
86	Dixon, Floyd	WR	5–9	170	2	S.F. Austin
3	Donnelly, Rick	P	6–0	190	3	Wyoming
73	Dukes, Jamie	G	6–1	270	2	Fla. St.
79	Fralic, Bill	T-G	6–5	280	3	Pittsburgh
76	Gann, Mike	DE	6–5	265	3	Notre D.
99	Green, Tim	LB	6–2	249	2	Syracuse
6	Haji-Sheikh, Ali	K	6–0	172	5	Michigan
68	Harrison, Dennis	DE	6–8	280	10	Vanderbilt
66	Hinson, Billy	G	6–1	278	2	Florida
71	Howe, Glen	T	6–7	298	3	So. Miss.
81	Johnson, Billy	WR	5–9	170	13	Widener
84	Jones, Joey	WR	5–8	165	2	Alabama
78	Kenn, Mike	T	6–7	277	10	Michigan
18	Luckhurst, Mick	K	6–1	178	7	California
83	Matthews, Aubrey	WR	5–7	165	2	Delta St.
87	Middleton, Ron	TE	6–2	252	2	Auburn
62	Miller, Brett	T	6–7	300	5	Iowa
34	Moore, Robert	S	5–11	190	2	N'west. St.
64	Pellegrini, Joe	G-C	6–4	265	6	Harvard
74	Pitts, Mike	DE	6–5	277	5	Alabama
72	Provence, Andrew	DE	6–3	267	5	S.C.
59	Rade, John	LB	6–1	240	5	Boise St.
55	Radloff, Wayne	C-G	6–5	277	3	Georgia
42	Riggs, Gerald	RB	6–1	232	6	Ariz. St.
14	Schonert, Turk	QB	6–1	196	8	Stanford
61	Scully, John	G	6–6	270	7	Notre D.
29	Stamps, Sylvester	RB	5–7	175	4	Jackson St.
21	Turner, Jimmy	CB	6–0	187	5	UCLA
45	Whisenhunt, Ken	TE	6–2	233	3	Ga. Tech
51	Wilkes, Reggie	LB	6–4	242	10	Ga. Tech
54	Williams, Joel	LB	6–1	227	9	WisLaC'se
35	Williams, Keith	WR-RB	5–10	173	2	SW M'ouri
22	Woodberry, Dennis	CB	5–10	183	2	S. Ark.

1986 Data

Record: 7–8–1, 3rd NFC West
Head Coach: Marion Campbell (NFL Record: 23–48–1)
Total Offense: 319.1 yds. per game
Total Defense: 306.8 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 17.5 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 17.5 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Charles Taylor, Director of Public Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: Dave Archer, 150-294-9-2007, 10 TDs.
Rushing: Gerald Riggs, 1327 yds., 9 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Charlie Brown, 63 ct., 918 yds., 4 TDs.
Kicking: Mick Luckhurst, 21–21 PATs, 14–24 FGs, 63 points.
Punting: Rick Donnelly, 78 punts, 43.9 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Sylvester Stamps, 24 ret., 21.4 avg.
Punt Returns: Floyd Dixon, 26 ret., 5.8 avg.
Tackles: Buddy Curry, 157, 84 solo.
Sacks: Mike Pitts, 5½ for 41.5 yds.; Mike Gann, 5½ for 40.5 yds.
Interceptions: Bret Clark, 5 for 94 yds.

1986 Results

31	at New Orleans	10
33	St. Louis	13
37	at Dallas	35
23	at Tampa Bay (OT)	20
0	Philadelphia	16
26	Los Angeles Rams	14
10	San Francisco (OT)	10
7	at Los Angeles Rams	14
17	at New England	25
14	New York Jets	28
10	Chicago	13
0	at San Francisco	20
20	at Miami	14
23	Indianapolis	28
9	New Orleans	14
20	at Detroit	6

BUFFALO BILLS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
43	Bayless, Martin	S	6–2	195	4	B. Green
28	Bell, Greg	RB	5–10	210	4	Notre D.
36	Bellinger, Rodney	CB	5–8	189	4	Miami(Fl.)
50	Bentley, Ray	LB	6–2	250	2	C. Mich.
	Broughton, Walter	WR	5-10	180	2	Jk'ville St.
85	Burkett, Chris	WR	6–4	198	3	Jackson St.
29	Burroughs, Derrick	CB	6–1	180	3	Mem. St.
80	Butler, Jerry	WR	6–0	178	8	Clemson
35	Byrum, Carl	RB	6–0	232	2	Miss. V. St.
	Caron, Roger	T	6–5	275	3	Harvard
70	Devlin, Joe	T	6–5	280	11	Iowa
45	Drane, Dwight	SS	6–1	200	2	Oklahoma
53	Furjanic, Tony	LB	6-1	228	2	Notre D
99	Garner, Hal	LB	6–4	225	3	Utah St.
8	Gelbaugh, Stan	QB	6–3	207	2	Maryland
75	Hamby, Mike	DE	6–4	270	2	Utah St.
33	Harmon, Ronnie	RB	5-11	192	2	Iowa
55	Haslett, Jim	LB	6–3	236	9	Indiana(Pa.)
71	Hellestrae, Dale	T	6–5	275	3	SMU
67	Hull, Kent	C	6–4	262	2	Miss. St.
48	Johnson, Lawrence	S	5–11	202	8	Wisconsin
72	Jones, Ken	T	6–5	285	12	Ark. St.
12	Kelly, Jim	QB	6-3	215	2	Miami(Fl.)
84	Kern, Don	TE	6-4	235	4	Ariz. St.
4	Kidd, John	P	6–3	208	4	N'western
49	King, Bruce	FB	6-1	219	3	Purdue
54	Marve, Eugene	LB	6–2	240	5	Saginaw
95	McNanie, Sean	DE	6–5	270	4	S. Diego St.
88	Metzelaars, Pete	TE	6–7	243	6	Wabash
11	Norwood, Scott	K	6-0	207	3	J. Madison
27	Pitts, Ron	S	5-10	175	2	UCLA
68	Ploeger, Kurt	DE	6-5	260	2	Gust. Adol.
79	Prater, Dean	DE	6–4	256	6	Okla. St.
83	Reed, Andre	WR	6–0	186	3	Kutz. St.
14	Reich, Frank	QB	6–3	208	3	Maryland
82	Richardson, Eric	WR	6–1	185	3	S. Jose St.
40	Riddick, Robb	RB	6–0	195	5	Millersv.St.
51	Ritcher, Jim	G	6–3	265	8	N.C. St.
87	Rolle, Butch	TE	6–3	242	2	Mich. St.
26	Romes, Charles	CB	6-1	190	11	N.C. Cent.
57	Sanford, Lucius	LB	6–2	220	10	Ga. Tech
76	Smerlas, Fred	NT	6–3	280	9	Bost. Coll.
78	Smith, Bruce	DE	6–4	280	3	Va. Tech
74	Smith, Don	NT	6–5	262	9	Miami(Fl.)
56	Talley, Darryl	LB	6–4	227	5	W. Va.
89	Tasker, Steve	WR-KR	5-9	185	3	N'western
86	Teal, Jimmy	WR	5–10	170	3	Texas A&M
62	Traynowicz, Mark	G	6–5	275	3	Nebraska
65	Vogler, Tim	G	6–3	285	9	Ohio St.
34	Wilkins, Gary	FB	6-1	235	2	Ga. Tech.
23	Williams, Kevin	DB	5–9	170	3	Iowa St.
73	Wolford, Will	T	6–5	276	2	Vanderbilt

1986 Data

Record: 4–12–0, 4th AFC East
Head Coach: Marv Levy (NFL Record: 33–47)
Total Offense: 313.6 yds. per game
Total Defense: 345.2 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 17.9 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 21.8 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of L. Budd Thalman, Vice President - Public Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: Jim Kelly, 285-480-17-3593, 22 TDs.
Rushing: Robb Riddick, 632 yds., 4 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Chris Burkett, 34 ct., 778 yds., 4 TDs.
Kicking: Scott Norwood, 32-34 PATs, 17-27 FGs, 83 points.
Punting: John Kidd, 75 punts, 40.4 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Ronnie Harmon, 18 ret., 17.8 avg.
Punt Returns: Ron Pitts, 18 ret., 10.8 avg., 1 TD.
Tackles: Eugene Marve, 156, 86 solo.
Sacks: Bruce Smith, 15 for 124 yds.
Interceptions: Charles Romes, 4 for 23 yds.

1986 Results

24	New York Jets	28
33	at Cincinnati (OT)	36
17	St. Louis	10
17	Kansas City	20
13	at New York Jets	14
14	at Miami	27
24	Indianapolis	13
3	New England	23
28	at Tampa Bay	34
16	Pittsburgh	12
24	Miami	34
19	at New England	22
17	at Kansas City	14
17	Cleveland	21
14	at Indianapolis	24
7	at Houston	16

CHICAGO BEARS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
35	Anderson, Neal	RB	5-11	210	2	Florida
81	Barnes, Lew	WR	5-8	163	2	Oregon
79	Becker, Kurt	G	6-5	267	6	Michigan
25	Bell, Todd	S	6-1	205	6	Ohio St.
68	Blair, Paul	T	6-4	295	2	Okla. St.
62	Bortz, Mark	G	6-6	269	5	Iowa
8	Buford, Maury	P	6-1	191	6	Texas Tech
6	Butler, Kevin	K	6-1	195	3	Georgia
74	Covert, Jim	T	6-4	271	5	Pittsburgh
95	Dent, Richard	DE	6-5	263	5	Tenn. St.
36	Douglass, Maurice	DB	5-11	200	2	Kentucky
22	Duerson, Dave	S	6-1	203	5	Notre D.
45	Fencik, Gary	S	6-1	196	12	Yale
2	Flutie, Doug	QB	5-9	176	2	Bost. Coll.
21	Frazier, Leslie	CB	6-0	187	6	Alcorn St.
4	Fuller, Steve	QB	6-4	195	9	Clemson
83	Gault, Willie	WR	6-1	183	5	Tennessee
23	Gayle, Shaun	CB	5-11	193	3	Ohio St.
29	Gentry, Dennis	RB	5-8	181	6	Baylor
99	Hampton, Dan	DT	6-5	267	9	Arkansas
90	Harris, Al	LB	6-5	253	8	Ariz. St.
73	Hartenstine, Mike	DE	6-3	254	13	Penn St.
63	Hilgenberg, Jay	C	6-3	258	7	Iowa
75	Humphries, Stefan	G	6-3	268	4	Michigan
24	Jackson, Vestee	DB	6-0	186	2	Wash.
88	Kozlowski, Glen	WR	6-1	193	2	BYU
58	Marshall, Wilber	LB	6-1	225	4	Florida
85	McKinnon, Dennis	WR	6-1	185	4	Fla. St.
9	McMahon, Jim	QB	6-1	190	6	BYU
76	McMichael, Steve	DT	6-2	260	8	Texas
87	Moorehead, Emery	TE	6-2	220	11	Colorado
51	Morrissey, Jim	LB	6-3	215	3	Mich. St.
89	Ortego, Keith	WR	6-0	180	3	McN'se St.
34	Payton, Walter	RB	5-10	202	13	Jackson St.
72	Perry, William	DT	6-2	325	3	Clemson
48	Phillips, Reggie	DB	5-10	170	3	SMU
53	Rains, Dan	LB	6-1	222	4	Cincinnati
27	Richardson, Mike	CB	6-0	188	5	Ariz. St.
59	Rivera, Ron	LB	6-3	239	4	California
52	Rubens, Larry	C	6-2	262	4	M'tana St.
20	Sanders, Thomas	RB	5-11	203	3	Texas A&M
50	Singletary, Mike	LB	6-0	228	7	Baylor
26	Suhey, Matt	FB	5-11	216	8	Penn St.
57	Thayer, Tom	G-C	6-4	261	3	Notre D.
33	Thomas, Calvin	FB	5-11	245	6	Illinois
18	Tomczak, Mike	QB	6-1	195	3	Ohio St.
78	Van Horne, Keith	T	6-6	280	7	USC
70	Waechter, Henry	DT	6-5	275	6	Nebraska
49	Walton, Riley	TE	6-3	230	2	Tenn. St.
55	Wilson, Otis	LB	6-2	232	8	Louisville
80	Wrightman, Tim	TE	6-3	237	3	UCLA

1986 Data

Record: 14-3-0 (includes playoffs), 1st NFC Central
Head Coach: Mike Ditka (NFL Record: 54-25)
Total Offense: 341.2 yds. per game
Total Defense: 258.1 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 22.0 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 11.7 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Ken Valdiserri, Director of Public Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: Jim McMahon, 77-150-8-995, 5 TDs.
Rushing: Walter Payton, 1333 yds., 8 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Willie Gault, 42 ct., 818 yds., 5 TDs.
Kicking: Kevin Butler, 36-37 PATs, 28-41 FGs, 120 points.
Punting: Maury Buford, 69 punts, 41.3 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Dennis Gentry, 20 ret., 28.8 avg, 1 TD.
Punt Returns: Lew Barnes, 57 ret., 8.5 avg.
Tackles: Gary Fencik, 130, 67 solo.
Sacks: Richard Dent, 11½ for 87 yds.
Interceptions: Mike Richardson, 7 for 69 yds.

1986 Results

	41	Cleveland	31
	13	Philadelphia (OT)	10
	22	at Green Bay	12
	44	at Cincinnati	7
	23	Minnesota	0
	20	at Houston	7
	7	at Minnesota	23
	13	Detroit	7
	17	Los Angeles Rams	20
	23	at Tampa Bay	3
	13	at Atlanta	10
	12	Green Bay	10
	13	Pittsburgh (OT)	10
	48	Tampa Bay	14
	16	at Detroit	13
	24	at Dallas	10
Playoffs:	13	Washington	27

CINCINNATI BENGALS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
14	Anderson, Ken	QB	6-3	212	17	Augustana
53	Barker, Leo	LB	6-2	227	4	N. Mex. St.
24	Billups, Lewis	CB	5-11	190	2	N. Ala.
74	Blados, Brian	G	6-5	295	4	N.C.
55	Brady, Ed	LB	6-2	235	4	Illinois
3	Breech, Jim	K	5-6	161	9	California
34	Breeden, Louis	CB	5-11	185	10	N.C. Cent.
21	Brooks, James	RB	5-10	182	7	Auburn
81	Brown, Eddie	WR	6-0	185	3	Miami(Fl.)
79	Browner, Ross	DE	6-3	265	10	Notre D.
27	Bussey, Barney	S	6-0	195	2	S. C. St.
80	Collinsworth, Cris	WR	6-5	192	6	Florida
93	Deayala, Kiki	LB	6-1	225	2	Texas
67	Douglas, David	T	6-4	280	2	Tennessee
73	Edwards, Eddie	DE	6-5	256	11	Miami(Fl.)
7	Esiason, Boomer	QB	6-4	220	4	Maryland
33	Fulcher, David	S	6-3	228	2	Ariz. St.
11	Gaynor, Doug	QB	6-2	205	2	L. Bch. St.
71	Hammerstein, Mike	DE	6-4	270	2	Michigan
5	Hayes, Jeff	P	5-11	175	6	N. C.
95	Herrmann, James	DE	6-6	255	2	BYU
43	Hillary, Ira	WR	5-11	190	2	S.C.
82	Holman, Rodney	TE	6-3	238	6	Tulane
20	Horton, Ray	CB	5-11	190	5	Wash.
37	Jackson, Robert	S	5-10	186	7	C. Mich.
36	Jennings, Stanford	RB	6-1	205	4	Furman
30	Johnson, Bill	RB	6-2	230	3	Ark. St.
84	Kattus, Eric	TE	6-5	235	2	Michigan
58	Kelly, Joe	LB	6-2	227	2	Wash.
90	King, Emanuel	LB	6-4	251	3	Alabama
28	Kinnebrew, Larry	RB	6-1	258	5	Tenn. St.
64	Kozerski, Bruce	C	6-4	275	4	Holy Cross
86	Kreider, Steve	WR	6-3	192	9	Lehigh
69	Krumrie, Tim	NT	6-2	262	5	Wisconsin
88	Martin, Mike	WR	5-10	186	5	Illinois
85	McGee, Tim	WR	5-10	175	2	Tennessee
65	Montoya, Max	G	6-5	275	9	UCLA
78	Munoz, Anthony	T	6-6	278	8	USC
75	Reimers, Bruce	T	6-7	280	4	Iowa St.
50	Rimington, Dave	C	6-3	288	5	Nebraska
96	Shaw, Jeff	NT	6-1	280	2	Salem
56	Simpkins, Ron	LB	6-1	235	7	Michigan
70	Skow, Jim	DE	6-3	250	2	Nebraska
63	Walter, Joe	T	6-6	290	3	Texas Tech
51	White, Leon	LB	6-2	236	2	BYU
57	Williams, Reggie	LB	6-0	228	12	Dartmouth
32	Wilson, Stanley	RB	5-10	210	4	Oklahoma
91	Zander, Carl	LB	6-2	235	3	Tennessee

1986 Data

Record: 10-6-0, 2nd AFC Central
Head Coach: Sam Wyche (NFL Record: 25-23)
Total Offense: 405.6 yds. per game
Total Defense: 329.6 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 25.6 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 24.6 ptpg.

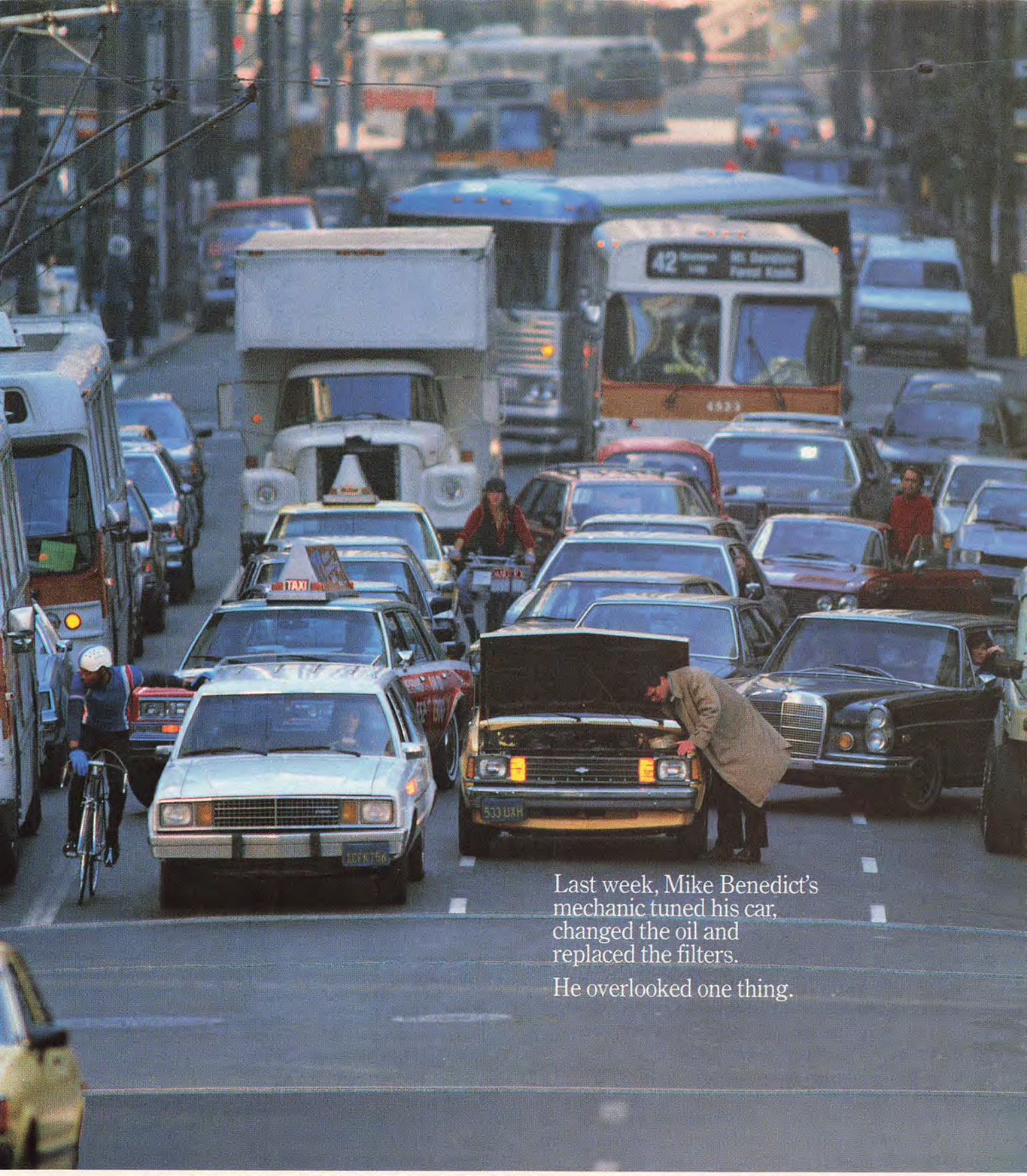
Information provided by the office of Allan Heim, Public Relations Director

1986 Leaders

Passing: Boomer Esiason, 273-469-17-3959, 24 TDs.
Rushing: James Brooks, 1087 yds., 5 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Cris Collinsworth, 62 ct., 1024 yds., 10 TDs.
Kicking: Jim Breech, 50-51 PATs, 17-32 FGs, 101 points.
Punting: Jeff Hayes, 56 punts, 35.1 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Tim McGee, 43 ret., 23.4 avg.
Punt Returns: Ray Horton, 11 ret., 10.1 avg.
Tackles: Tim Krumrie, 113, 73 solo.
Sacks: Emanuel King, 9.
Interceptions: Louis Breeden, 7 for 72 yds., 1 TD.

1986 Results

14	at Kansas City	24
36	Buffalo (OT)	33
30	at Cleveland	13
7	Chicago	44
34	at Green Bay	28
24	Pittsburgh	22
31	Houston	28
9	at Pittsburgh	30
24	at Detroit	17
28	at Houston	32
34	Seattle	7
24	Minnesota	20
28	at Denver	34
31	at New England	7
3	Cleveland	34
52	New York Jets	21



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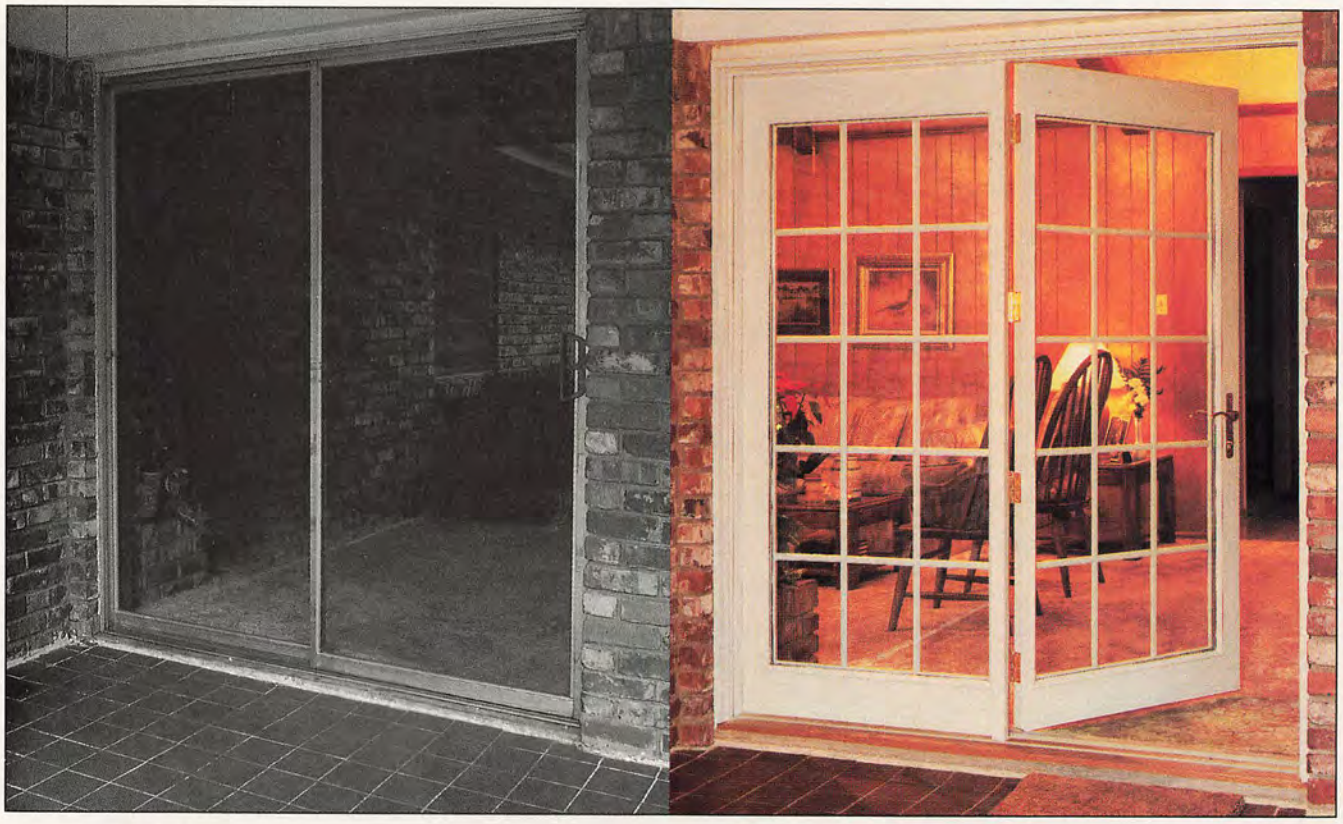

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CLEVELAND BROWNS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
61	Baab, Mike	C	6–4	270	6	Texas
9	Bahr, Matt	K	5–10	175	9	Penn St.
77	Bolden, Rickey	T	6–6	280	4	SMU
	Bowser, Charles	LB	6–3	235	6	Duke
86	Brennan, Brian	WR	5–9	178	4	Bost. Coll.
44	Byner, Earnest	RB	5–10	215	4	E. Car.
96	Camp, Reggie	DE	6–4	280	5	California
91	Clancy, Sam	DE	6–7	260	4	Pittsburgh
18	Danielson, Gary	QB	6–2	196	11	Purdue
38	Davis, Johnny	FB	6–1	235	10	Alabama
33	Dickey, Curtis	RB	6–1	220	8	Texas A&M
29	Dixon, Hanford	CB	5–11	186	7	So. Miss.
24	Ellis, Ray	S	6–1	196	7	Ohio St.
39	Everett, Major	RB	5–10	218	5	Miss. Coll.
74	Farren, Paul	T-G	6–5	280	5	Boston U.
69	Fike, Dan	G	6–7	280	3	Florida
28	Fontenot, Herman	RB-KR	6–0	206	3	LSU
79	Golic, Bob	NT	6–2	270	8	Notre D.
7	Gossett, Jeff	P	6–2	200	6	Eastern Ill.
80	Greer, Terry	WR	6–2	197	2	Ala. St.
53	Griggs, Anthony	LB	6–3	230	6	Ohio St.
27	Gross, Al	S	6–3	195	5	Arizona
78	Hairston, Carl	DE	6–4	260	12	Md.(E.Sh.)
23	Harper, Mark	CB	5–9	174	2	Alcorn St.
48	Hoggard, D.D.	CB	6–0	188	2	N.C. State
81	Holt, Harry	TE	6–4	240	5	Arizona
51	Johnson, Eddie	LB	6–1	225	7	Louisville
59	Johnson, Mike	LB	6–1	228	2	Va. Tech
19	Kosar, Bernie	QB	6–5	210	3	Miami(Fl.)
88	Langhorne, Reggie	WR	6–2	195	3	Eliz. Cty. St.
62	Lilja, George	G-C	6–4	270	6	Michigan
34	Mack, Kevin	FB	6–0	212	3	Clemson
90	Malone, Ralph	DE	6–5	225	2	Ga. Tech
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6–2	235	10	USC
89	McNeil, Gerald	WR-PR	5–7	140	2	Baylor
31	Minnifield, Frank	CB	5–9	180	4	Louisville
82	Newsome, Ozzie	TE	6–2	232	10	Alabama
58	Nicolas, Scott	LB	6–3	226	6	Miami(Fl.)
10	Pagel, Mike	QB	6–2	200	6	Ariz. St.
72	Puzzuoli, Dave	NT	6–3	260	5	Pittsburgh
63	Risien, Cody	T	6–7	280	8	Texas A&M
37	Rockins, Chris	S	6–0	195	4	Okla. St.
84	Slaughter, Webster	WR	6–0	170	2	S. Diego St.
87	Tucker, Travis	TE	6–3	240	3	So. Conn. St.
50	Van Pelt, Brad	LB	6–5	235	15	Mich. St.
85	Weathers, Clarence	WR-PR	5–9	170	5	Dela. St.
70	Williams, Larry	G	6–5	290	2	Notre D.
22	Wright, Felix	DB	6–2	190	3	Drake

1986 Data

Record: 13–5–0 (includes playoffs), 1st AFC Central
Head Coach: Marty Schottenheimer (NFL Record: 25–18–0)
Total Offense: 337.1 yds. per game
Total Defense: 329.3 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 24.4 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 19.4 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Bob Eller, Director of Public Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: Bernie Kosar, 310–531–10–3854, 17 TDs.
Rushing: Kevin Mack, 665 yds., 10 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Brian Brennan, 55 ct., 838 yds., 6 TDs.
Kicking: Matt Bahr, 30–30 PATs, 20–26 FGs, 90 points.
Punting: Jeff Gossett, 83 punts, 41.2 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Gerald McNeil, 47 ret., 21.2 avg.
Punt Returns: Gerald McNeil, 40 ret., 8.7 avg.
Tackles: Chris Rockins, 135, 69 solo.
Sacks: Carl Hairston, 9 for 56 yds.
Interceptions: Hanford Dixon, 5 for 35 yds.

1986 Results

	31	at Chicago	41
	23	at Houston	20
	13	Cincinnati	30
	24	Detroit	21
	27	at Pittsburgh	24
	20	Kansas City	7
	14	Green Bay	17
	23	at Minnesota	20
	24	at Indianapolis	9
	26	Miami	16
	14	at Los Angeles Raiders	27
	37	Pittsburgh (OT)	31
	13	Houston (OT)	10
	21	at Buffalo	17
	34	at Cincinnati	3
	47	San Diego	17
Playoffs:	23	New York Jets (OT)	20
	20	Denver (OT)	23

DALLAS COWBOYS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
36	Albritton, Vince	S	6–2	210	4	Wash.
62	Baldinger, Brian	G	6–4	261	5	Duke
87	Banks, Gordon	WR	5–10	173	5	Stanford
40	Bates, Bill	S	6–1	204	5	Tennessee
99	Brooks, Kevin	DE	6–6	273	3	Michigan
85	Chandler, Thornton	TE	6–5	245	2	Alabama
42	Clack, Darryl	RB	5–10	218	2	Ariz. St.
10	Collier, Reggie	QB	6–3	207	2	So. Miss.
84	Cosbie, Doug	TE	6–6	238	9	Santa Clara
55	DeOssie, Steve	LB	6–2	245	4	Bost. Coll.
33	Dorsett, Tony	RB	5–11	189	11	Pittsburgh
26	Downs, Michael	S	6–3	204	7	Rice
78	Dutton, John	DT	6–7	261	14	Nebraska
27	Fellows, Ron	CB	6–0	173	7	Missouri
46	Fowler, Todd	FB	6–3	221	3	S.F. Austin
28	Granger, Norm	RB	5–10	225	2	Iowa
58	Hegman, Mike	LB	6–1	227	12	Tenn. St.
45	Hendrix, Manny	DB	5–10	178	2	Utah
80	Hill, Tony	WR	6–2	205	11	Stanford
23	Holloway, Johnny	CB	5–11	182	2	Kansas
53	Jax, Garth	LB	6–2	225	2	Fla. St.
77	Jeffcoat, Jim	DE	6–5	260	5	Ariz. St.
72	Jones, Ed	DE	6–9	273	13	Tenn. St.
68	Ker, Crawford	G	6–3	285	3	Florida
29	Lavette, Robert	RB	5–11	190	3	Ga. Tech
56	Lockhart, Eugene	LB	6–2	235	4	Houston
14	McDonald, Paul	QB	6–2	185	8	USC
30	Newsome, Timmy	FB	6–1	237	8	Wins.Sal.St.
67	Newton, Nate	G	6–3	317	2	Fla. A&M
16	Pelluer, Steve	QB	6–4	208	4	Wash.
59	Penn, Jesse	LB	6–3	218	3	Va. Tech
65	Petersen, Kurt	G	6–4	272	8	Missouri
81	Powe, Karl	WR	6–2	178	2	Ala. St.
75	Pozderac, Phil	T	6–9	283	6	Notre D.
64	Rafferty, Tom	C	6–3	262	12	Penn St.
82	Renfro, Mike	WR	6–0	187	10	TCU
70	Richards, Howard	T	6–6	269	7	Missouri
50	Rohrer, Jeff	LB	6–2	227	6	Yale
89	Salonen, Brian	LB	6–3	223	3	Montana
4	Saxon, Mike	P	6–3	188	3	S. Diego St.
22	Scott, Victor	DB	6–0	203	4	Colorado
86	Sherrard, Mike	WR	6–2	187	2	UCLA
60	Smerek, Don	DT	6–7	262	7	Nev.-Reno
63	Titensor, Glen	G	6–4	270	7	BYU
71	Tuinei, Mark	C	6–5	283	5	Hawaii
34	Walker, Herschel	RB	6–1	223	2	Georgia
24	Walls, Everson	CB	6–1	193	7	Grambling
11	White, Danny	QB	6–3	197	12	Ariz. St.
54	White, Randy	DT	6–4	265	13	Maryland

1986 Data

Record: 7–9–0, 3rd NFC East
Head Coach: Tom Landry (NFL Record: 260–157–6)
Total Offense: 342.2 yds. per game
Total Defense: 311.6 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 21.6 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 21.1 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Doug Todd, Public Relations Director

1986 Leaders

Passing: Steve Pelluer, 215–378–17–2727, 8 TDs.
Rushing: Tony Dorsett, 748 yds., 5 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Herschel Walker, 76 ct., 837 yds., 2 TDs.
Kicking: Rafael Septien, 43–43 PATs, 15–21 FGs, 88 points.
Punting: Mike Saxon, 86 punts, 40.7 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Robert Lavette, 36 ret., 19.4 avg.
Punt Returns: Gordon Banks, 27 ret., 5.9 avg.
Tackles: Eugene Lockhart, 121, 77 solo.
Sacks: Jim Jeffcoat, 14.
Interceptions: Michael Downs, 6 for 54 yds.

1986 Results

31	New York Giants	28
31	at Detroit	7
35	Atlanta	37
31	at St. Louis	7
14	at Denver	29
30	Washington	6
17	at Philadelphia	14
37	St. Louis	6
14	at New York Giants	17
13	Los Angeles Raiders	17
24	at San Diego	21
14	at Washington	41
14	Seattle	31
10	at Los Angeles Rams	29
21	Philadelphia	23
10	Chicago	24

DENVER BRONCOS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
35	Bell, Ken	RB	5-10	190	2	Bost. Coll.
54	Bishop, Keith	C-G	6-3	265	7	Baylor
64	Bryan, Billy	C	6-2	255	11	Duke
68	Carter, Rubin	NT	6-0	256	13	Miami(Fl.)
69	Colorito, Tony	NT	6-5	260	2	USC
59	Comeaux, Darren	LB	6-1	227	6	Ariz. St.
63	Cooper, Mark	G	6-5	267	5	Miami(Fl.)
55	Dennison, Rick	LB	6-3	220	6	Colo. St.
7	Elway, John	QB	6-3	210	5	Stanford
73	Fletcher, Simon	DE	6-5	240	3	Houston
43	Foley, Steve	S	6-3	190	12	Tulane
62	Freeman, Mike	G	6-3	256	3	Arizona
90	Gilbert, Freddie	DE	6-4	275	2	Georgia
85	Hackett, Joey	TE	6-5	267	2	Elon Coll.
31	Harden, Mike	CB	6-1	192	8	Michigan
36	Haynes, Mark	CB	5-11	195	8	Colorado
2	Horan, Mike	P	5-11	190	4	L. Bch. St.
60	Howard, Paul	G	6-3	260	14	BYU
98	Hunley, Ricky	LB	6-2	238	4	Arizona
80	Jackson, Mark	WR	5-9	174	2	Purdue
82	Johnson, Vance	WR	5-11	174	3	Arizona
75	Jones, Rulon	DE	6-6	260	8	Utah St.
3	Karlis, Rich	K	6-0	180	6	Cincinnati
88	Kay, Clarence	TE	6-2	237	4	Georgia
71	Kragen, Greg	NT	6-3	245	3	Utah St.
8	Kubiak, Gary	QB	6-0	192	5	Texas A&M
33	Lang, Gene	RB	5-10	196	4	LSU
76	Lanier, Ken	T	6-3	269	7	Fla. St.
22	Lilly, Tony	S	6-0	199	4	Florida
77	Mecklenburg, Karl	DE-LB	6-3	230	5	Minnesota
87	Micho, Bobby	TE	6-3	240	3	Texas
89	Mobley, Orson	TE	6-5	256	2	Salem
74	Remsberg, Dan	T	6-6	275	2	Abilene C.
48	Robbins, Randy	S	6-2	189	4	Arizona
50	Ryan, Jim	LB	6-1	218	9	Wil & Mary
84	Sampson, Clint	WR	5-11	183	5	S. Diego St.
30	Sewell, Steve	RB-WR	6-3	210	3	Oklahoma
49	Smith, Dennis	S	6-3	200	7	USC
70	Studdard, Dave	T	6-4	260	9	Texas
61	Townsend, Andre	DE-NT	6-3	265	4	Mississippi
81	Watson, Steve	WR	6-4	195	9	Temple
47	Willhite, Gerald	RB	5-10	200	6	S. Jose St.
45	Wilson, Steve	CB	5-10	195	9	Howard
23	Winder, Sammy	RB	5-11	203	6	So. Miss.
52	Woodard, Ken	LB	6-1	218	6	Tuskegee
20	Wright, Louis	CB	6-3	200	13	S. Jose St.

1986 Data

Record: 13-6-0 (includes playoffs), 1st AFC West
Head Coach: Dan Reeves (NFL Record: 58-36)
Total Offense: 326.0 yds. per game
Total Defense: 309.2 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 23.6 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 20.4 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Jim Saccomano, Director of Media Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: John Elway, 280-504-13-3485, 19 TDs.
Rushing: Sammy Winder, 789 yds., 9 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Mark Jackson, 38 ct., 738 yds., 1 TD.
Kicking: Rich Karlis, 44-45 PATs, 20-28 FGs, 104 points.
Punting: Mike Horan, 21 punts, 41.1 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Ken Bell, 23 ret., 23.1 avg.
Punt Returns: Gerald Willhite, 42 ret., 11.1 avg.
Tackles: Rickey Hunley, 164, 99 solo.
Sacks: Rulon Jones, 13½ for 152 yds.
Interceptions: Mike Harden, 6, 179 yds., 2 TDs.

1986 Results

	38	Los Angeles Raiders	36
	21	at Pittsburgh	10
	33	at Philadelphia	7
	27	New England	20
	29	Dallas	14
	31	at San Diego	14
	10	at New York Jets	22
	20	Seattle	13
	21	at Los Angeles Raiders	10
	3	San Diego	9
	38	Kansas City	17
	16	at New York Giants	19
	34	Cincinnati	28
	10	at Kansas City	37
	31	Washington	30
	16	at Seattle	41
Playoffs:	22	New England	17
	23	at Cleveland (OT)	20
	20	New York Giants	39

DETROIT LIONS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
6	Arnold, Jim	P	6-3	211	5	Vanderbilt
68	Baack, Steve	NT	6-4	265	4	Oregon
61	Barrows, Scott	G-C	6-2	278	2	W. Va.
80	Bland, Carl	WR	5-11	182	4	Va. Union
42	Bostic, John	CB	5-10	178	3	Beth-Cook
75	Brown, Lomas	T	6-4	282	3	Florida
96	Butcher, Paul	LB	6-0	219	2	Wayne St.
89	Chadwick, Jeff	WR	6-3	190	5	Gr. Val. St.
55	Cofer, Michael	OLB	6-5	245	5	Tennessee
70	Dorney, Keith	G-T	6-5	285	9	Penn. St.
43	Elder, Donnie	CB	5-9	175	3	Mem. St.
66	Evans, Leon	DE	6-5	282	3	Miami(Fl.)
12	Ferguson, Joe	QB	6-1	195	15	Arkansas
77	Ferguson, Keith	DE	6-5	260	7	Ohio St.
40	Galloway, Duane	DB	5-8	181	2	Ariz. St.
79	Gay, William	DE	6-5	260	10	USC
81	Giles, Jimmie	TE	6-3	240	11	Alcorn St.
53	Glover, Kevin	C-G	6-2	267	3	Maryland
33	Graham, William	S	5-11	191	6	Texas
62	Green, Curtis	DE-NT	6-3	265	7	Ala. St.
34	Griffin, James	S	6-2	197	5	Mid.-Tenn.
58	Harrell, James	ILB	6-1	230	8	Florida
47	Hill, Rod	CB	6-0	188	5	K'tucky St.
17	Hipple, Eric	QB	6-2	198	8	Utah St.
36	Hunter, Herman	RB-KR	6-1	193	3	Tenn. St.
32	James, Garry	RB	5-10	214	2	LSU
21	Johnson, D.	S	5-11	190	5	Missouri
54	Johnson, James	OLB	6-2	236	2	S. Diego St.
30	Jones, James	FB	6-2	229	5	Florida
92	King, Angelo	OLB	6-1	222	7	S.C. St.
87	Lewis, David	TE	6-3	235	4	California
16	Long, Chuck	QB	6-4	211	2	Iowa
82	Mandley, Pete	WR-KR	5-10	191	4	No. Ariz.
57	Maxwell, Vernon	ILB	6-2	235	5	Ariz. St.
29	McNorton, Bruce	CB	5-11	175	6	G'town C.
31	Mitchell, Devon	S	6-1	194	2	Iowa
24	Moore, Alvin	RB	6-0	194	5	Ariz. St.
52	Mott, Steve	C	6-3	270	5	Alabama
3	Murray, Eddie	K	5-10	175	8	Tulane
51	Robinson, Shelton	ILB	6-2	236	6	N.C.
84	Rubick, Rob	TE	6-3	234	6	Gr. Val. St.
73	Salem, Harvey	T-G	6-6	285	5	California
64	Sanders, Eric	T-G	6-7	280	7	Nev.-Reno
71	Strenger, Rich	T	6-7	285	4	Michigan
39	Thompson, Leonard	WR	5-11	192	13	Okla. St.
27	Watkins, Bobby	CB	5-10	184	6	SW Tex. St.
76	Williams, Eric	NT	6-4	280	4	Wash. St.
59	Williams, Jimmy	OLB	6-3	230	6	Nebraska
38	Williams, Scott	FB	6-2	234	2	Georgia

1986 Data

Record: 5-11-0, 3rd NFC Central
Head Coach: Darryl Rogers (NFL Record: 12-20)
Total Offense: 284.7 yds. per game
Total Defense: 321.8 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 17.3 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 20.4 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of George Heddleston, Director of Public Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: Eric Hipple, 192-305-11-1919, 9 TDs.
Rushing: James Jones, 903 yds., 8 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Jeff Chadwick, 53 ct., 995 yds., 5 TDs.
Kicking: Eddie Murray, 31-32 PATs, 18-25 FGs, 85 points.
Punting: Jim Arnold, 36 punts, 42.6 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Herman Hunter, 48 ret., 21.0 avg.
Punt Returns: Pete Mandley, 43 ret., 9.8 avg.
Tackles: Demetrious Johnson, 112, 92 solo.
Sacks: Keith Ferguson, 9½ for 73 yds.
Interceptions: Devon Mitchell, 5 for 41 yds.

1986 Results

13	at Minnesota	10
7	Dallas	31
20	Tampa Bay	24
21	at Cleveland	24
24	Houston	13
21	at Green Bay	14
10	at Los Angeles Rams	14
7	at Chicago	13
17	Cincinnati	24
10	Minnesota	24
13	at Philadelphia	11
38	at Tampa Bay	17
40	Green Bay	44
17	at Pittsburgh	27
13	Chicago	16
6	Atlanta	20

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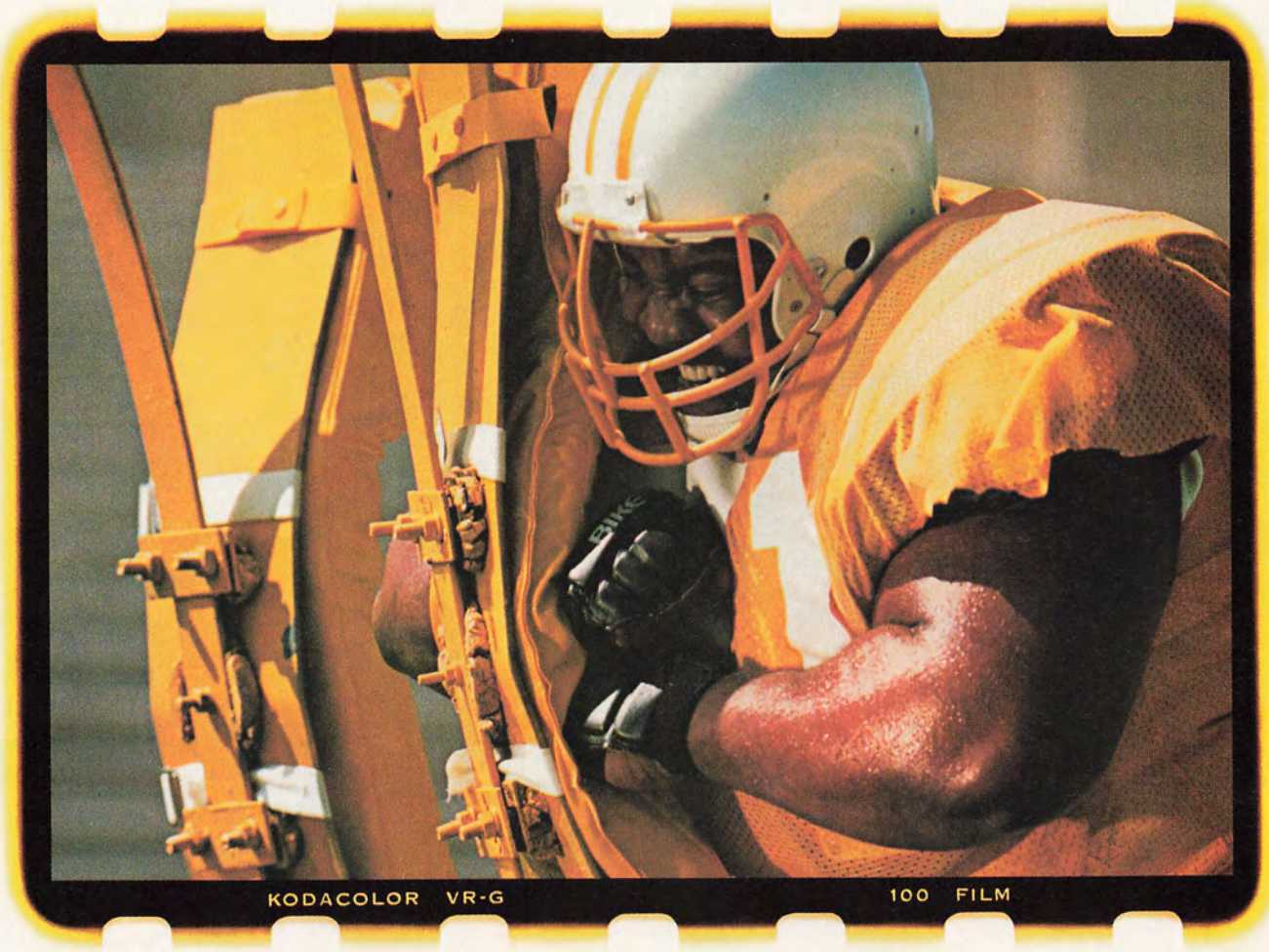

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GREEN BAY PACKERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
59	Anderson, John	LB	6-3	228	10	Michigan
20	Berry, Ed	DB	5-10	183	2	Utah St.
11	Bosco, Robbie	QB	6-2	198	2	BYU
17	Bracken, Don	P	6-0	211	3	Michigan
93	Brown, Robert	DE	6-2	267	6	Va. Tech
24	Cade, Mossy	CB	6-1	198	3	Texas
58	Cannon, Mark	C	6-3	258	4	Texas-Arl.
76	Carreker, Alphonso	DE	6-6	271	4	Fla. St.
30	Carruth, Paul Ott	RB	6-1	220	2	Alabama
69	Cherry, Bill	C-G	6-4	277	2	Mid-Tenn.
33	Clark, Jessie	FB	6-0	228	5	Arkansas
36	Davis, Kenneth	RB	5-10	209	2	TCU
10	Del Greco, Al	K	5-10	191	4	Auburn
56	Dent, Burnell	LB	6-1	236	2	Tulane
99	Dorsey, John	LB	6-2	243	4	Conn.
42	Ellerson, Gary	RB	5-11	219	3	Wisconsin
31	Ellis, Gerry	FB	5-11	235	8	Missouri
85	Epps, Phillip	WR	5-10	165	5	TCU
77	Feasel, Greg	T	6-7	301	2	Abilene C.
4	Fusina, Chuck	QB	6-1	195	5	Penn. St.
23	Greene, George	DB	6-0	194	3	W. Car.
49	Greenwood, David	SS	6-3	210	3	Wisconsin
65	Hallstrom, Ron	G	6-6	290	6	Iowa
97	Harris, Tim	LB	6-5	235	2	Mem. St.
79	Humphrey, Donnie	DE	6-3	295	4	Auburn
40	Ivery, Eddie Lee	HB	6-0	206	8	Ga. Tech
90	Johnson, Ezra	DE	6-4	264	11	Morris Br.
22	Lee, Mark	DB	5-11	189	8	Wash.
53	Leopold, Bobby	LB	6-1	224	6	Notre D.
89	Lewis, Mark	TE	6-2	237	3	Texas A&M
94	Martin, Charles	DE	6-4	280	4	Livingston
82	Moffitt, Mike	TE	6-4	211	2	Fresno St.
57	Moran, Rich	C-G	6-2	275	3	S.Diego St.
37	Murphy, Mark	SS	6-2	201	6	W. Liberty
72	Neville, Tom	T-G	6-5	306	2	Fresno St.
91	Noble, Brian	LB	6-3	252	3	Ariz. St.
81	Ross, Dan	TE	6-4	240	8	N'eastern
75	Ruettgers, Ken	T	6-5	280	3	USC
55	Scott, Randy	LB	6-1	228	6	Alabama
32	Simmons, John	CB-KR	5-11	192	7	SMU
87	Stanley, Walter	WR-KR	5-9	179	3	Mesa Coll.
29	Stills, Ken	DB	5-10	186	3	Wisconsin
67	Swanke, Karl	T-C	6-6	262	8	Bost. Coll.
92	Thomas, Ben	DE-NT	6-4	275	3	Auburn
70	Uecker, Keith	G-T	6-5	284	6	Auburn
73	Veingrad, Alan	T-G	6-5	277	2	E. Tex. St.
28	Watts, Elbert	CB	6-1	205	2	USC
52	Weddington, Mike	LB	6-4	245	2	Oklahoma
86	West, Ed	TE	6-1	243	4	Auburn
16	Wright, Randy	QB	6-2	203	4	Wisconsin

1986 Data

Record: 4-12-0, 4th NFC Central
Head Coach: Forrest Gregg (NFL Record: 70-76)
Total Offense: 316.3 yds. per game
Total Defense: 313.4 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 15.9 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 26.1 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Lee Remmel, Director of Public Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: Randy Wright, 263-492-23-3247, 17 TDs.
Rushing: Kenneth Davis, 519 yds.
Receiving (yds.): James Lofton, 64 ct., 840 yds., 4 TDs.
Kicking: Al Del Greco, 29-29 PATs, 17-27 FGs, 80 points.
Punting: Don Bracken, 55 punts, 40.1 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Walter Stanley, 28 ret., 20.0 avg.
Punt Returns: Walter Stanley, 33 ret., 9.6 avg., 1 TD.
Tackles: Brian Noble, 113, 82 solo.
Sacks: Tim Harris, 7½.
Interceptions: Mark Lee, 9 for 33 yds.

1986 Results

3	Houston	31
10	at New Orleans	24
12	Chicago	25
7	at Minnesota	42
28	Cincinnati	34
14	Detroit	21
17	at Cleveland	14
17	San Francisco	31
3	at Pittsburgh	27
7	Washington	16
31	Tampa Bay	7
10	at Chicago	12
44	at Detroit	40
6	Minnesota	32
21	at Tampa Bay	7
24	at New York Giants	55

HOUSTON OILERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
56	Abraham, Robert	LB	6-1	236	6	N.C. State
86	Akiu, Mike	WR	5-9	182	3	Hawaii
29	Allen, Patrick	CB	5-10	179	4	Utah St.
75	Baker, Jesse	DE	6-5	271	9	Jacksnv.St.
36	Banks, Chuck	FB	6-2	225	2	W.Va.Tech
25	Bostic, Keith	S	6-1	223	5	Michigan
92	Briehl, Tom	LB	6-3	247	3	Stanford
24	Brown, Steve	CB	5-11	187	5	Oregon
71	Byrd, Richard	DE	6-3	264	3	So. Miss.
79	Childress, Ray	DE	6-6	276	3	Texas A&M
50	Dodge, Kirk	LB	6-1	231	3	Nev.-L.V.
31	Donaldson, Jeff	S	6-0	194	4	Colorado
88	Dressel, Chris	TE	6-4	239	5	Stanford
82	Drewrey, Willie	WR-KR	5-7	164	3	W.Va.
21	Eason, Bo	S	6-2	204	4	Cal-Davis
51	Fairs, Eric	LB	6-3	235	2	Mem. St.
95	Fuller, William	DE	6-3	255	2	N.C.
81	Givins, Ernest	WR	5-9	175	2	Louisville
68	Golic, Mike	DT	6-5	272	2	Notre D.
59	Grimsley, John	LB	6-2	236	4	Kentucky
85	Hill, Drew	WR	5-9	168	8	Ga. Tech
72	Hill, Kent	G	6-5	260	9	Ga. Tech
22	Johnson, Kenny	S	5-11	172	8	Miss. St.
11	Johnson, Lee	P	6-1	199	3	BYU
23	Johnson, Richard	CB	6-1	190	3	Wisconsin
10	Luck, Oliver	QB	6-2	196	6	W. Va.
28	Lyday, Allen	S	5-10	197	4	Nebraska
93	Lyles, Robert	LB	6-1	225	4	TCU
98	Madsen, Lynn	DE	6-4	260	2	Wash.
78	Maggs, Don	T-G	6-5	279	2	Tulane
74	Matthews, Bruce	T	6-4	283	5	USC
26	McMillian, Audrey	CB	6-0	190	3	Houston
91	Meads, Johnny	LB	6-2	235	4	Nicholls
1	Moon, Warren	QB	6-3	210	4	Wash.
76	Moran, Eric	T-G	6-5	294	4	Wash.
67	Morgan, Karl	DT	6-1	255	4	UCLA
63	Munchak, Mike	G	6-3	278	6	Penn St.
39	Oliver, Hubert	FB	5-10	230	6	Arizona
52	Pennison, Jay	C	6-1	265	2	Nicholls
20	Pinkett, Allen	RB	5-9	185	2	Notre D.
53	Riley, Avon	LB	6-3	240	7	UCLA
55	Romano, Jim	C	6-3	264	6	Penn St.
33	Rozier, Mike	RB	5-10	211	3	Nebraska
99	Smith, Doug	NT	6-4	287	3	Auburn
83	Smith, Tim	WR	6-2	206	8	Nebraska
70	Steinkuhler, Dean	T-G	6-3	275	4	Nebraska
35	Wallace, Ray	FB	6-0	221	2	Purdue
69	Williams, Doug	T-G	6-5	285	2	Texas A&M
87	Williams, Jamie	TE	6-4	245	5	Nebraska
12	Witkowski, John	QB	6-1	205	3	Columbia
40	Woolfolk, Butch	RB	6-1	215	6	Michigan
7	Zendejas, Tony	K	5-8	165	3	Nev.-Reno

1986 Data

Record: 5-11-0, 4th AFC Central
Head Coach: Jerry Glanville (NFL Record: 5-13)
Total Offense: 321.8 yds. per game
Total Defense: 314.6 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 17.1 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 20.6 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Chip Namias, Public Relations Director

1986 Leaders

Passing: Warren Moon, 256-488-26-3489, 13 TDs.
Rushing: Mike Rozier, 662 yds., 4 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Drew Hill, 65 ct., 1112 yds., 5 TDs.
Kicking: Tony Zendejas, 28-29 PATs, 22-27 FGs, 94 points.
Punting: Lee Johnson, 88 punts, 41.2 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Willie Drewrey, 25 ret., 20.0 avg.; Allen Pinkett, 26 ret., 20.0 avg.
Punt Returns: Willie Drewrey, 34 ret., 7.7 avg.
Tackles: John Grimsley, 199, 112 solo.
Sacks: Ray Childress, 5 for 29 yds.
Interceptions: Patrick Allen and Allen Lyday with 3.

1986 Results

31	at Green Bay	3
20	Cleveland	23
13	at Kansas City	27
16	Pittsburgh (OT)	22
13	at Detroit	24
7	Chicago	20
28	at Cincinnati	31
17	Los Angeles Raiders	28
7	at Miami	28
32	Cincinnati	28
10	at Pittsburgh	21
31	Indianapolis	17
10	at Cleveland (OT)	13
0	at San Diego	27
23	Minnesota	10
16	Buffalo	7

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
57	Ahrens, Dave	LB	6-3	245	7	Wisconsin
79	Armstrong, Harvey	NT	6-3	261	5	SMU
72	Baldischwiler, Karl	T	6-5	276	9	Oklahoma
40	Ballage, Pat	S	6-1	200	2	Notre D.
81	Beach, Pat	TE	6-4	244	5	Wash. St.
20	Bentley, Albert	RB	5-11	210	3	Miami(Fl.)
4	Biasucci, Dean	K	6-0	198	3	W. Car.
50	Bickett, Duane	LB	6-5	241	3	USC
85	Bouza, Matt	WR	6-3	208	6	California
84	Boyer, Mark	TE	6-4	239	3	USC
80	Brooks, Bill	WR	5-11	190	2	Boston U.
74	Brotzki, Bob	T	6-5	269	2	Syracuse
68	Broughton, Willie	DE	6-5	277	3	Miami(Fl.)
71	Call, Kevin	T	6-7	293	4	Colo. St.
47	Clinkscale, Dextor	S	5-11	195	7	S.C. State
31	Coleman, Leonard	CB	6-2	197	3	Vanderbilt
98	Cooks, Johnie	LB	6-4	251	6	Miss. St.
38	Daniel, Eugene	CB	6-0	178	4	LSU
23	Daniel, Kenny	CB	5-10	180	4	S. Jose St.
53	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-4	282	8	Georgia
44	Gill, Owen	FB	6-1	230	3	Iowa
25	Glasgow, Nesby	S	5-10	186	9	Wash.
90	Haines, John	DL	6-7	266	3	Texas
78	Hand, Jon	DE	6-6	280	2	Alabama
87	Harbour, James	WR	6-1	192	2	Mississippi
29	Hicks, Dwight	S	6-1	192	9	Michigan
75	Hinton, Chris	T	6-4	288	5	N'western
7	Hogeboom, Gary	QB	6-4	207	8	C. Mich.
21	Holt, John	CB	5-11	180	7	W. Tex. St.
56	Hunley, LaMonte	LB	6-2	241	3	Arizona
94	Kellar, Scott	DT	6-3	278	2	N. Ill.
5	Kiel, Blair	QB	6-0	200	3	Notre D.
63	Kirchner, Mark	G	6-3	265	4	Baylor
55	Krauss, Barry	LB	6-3	239	9	Alabama
92	Leiding, Jeff	LB	6-3	232	2	Texas
59	Lowry, Orlando	LB	6-4	237	3	Ohio St.
88	Martin, Robbie	WR	5-8	187	7	Cal. Poly
32	McMillan, Randy	FB	6-0	216	7	Pittsburgh
86	Murray, Walter	WR	6-4	200	2	Hawaii
93	Odom, Cliff	LB	6-2	241	7	Tex.-Arl.
35	Randle, Tate	S	6-0	204	6	Texas Tech
58	Redd, Glen	LB	6-1	232	6	BYU
83	Sherwin, Tim	TE	6-6	246	7	Bost. Coll.
45	Sims, Tommy	DB	6-0	190	2	Tennessee
66	Solt, Ron	G	6-3	279	4	Maryland
21	Springs, Kirk	S-KR	6-0	200	7	Miami(Oh.)
3	Stark, Rohn	P	6-3	202	6	Fla. St.
99	Thompson, Donnell	DE	6-5	272	7	N. C.
10	Trudeau, Jack	QB	6-3	211	2	Illinois
64	Utt, Ben	G	6-5	281	6	Ga. Tech
34	Wonsley, George	RB	6-0	220	4	Miss. St.

1986 Data

Record: 3-13-0, 5th AFC East
Head Coach: Ron Meyer (NFL Record: 18-16)
Total Offense: 293.8 yds. per game
Total Defense: 356.3 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 14.3 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 25.0 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Craig Kelley, Director of Public Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: Jack Trudeau, 204-417-18-2225, 8 TDs.
Rushing: Randy McMillan, 609 yds., 3 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Bill Brooks, 65 ct., 1131 yds., 8 TDs.
Kicking: Dean Biasucci, 26-27 PATs, 13-25 FGs, 65 points.
Punting: Rohn Stark, 76 punts, 45.2 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Albert Bentley, 32 ret., 21.5 avg.
Punt Returns: Bill Brooks, 18 ret., 7.8 avg.
Tackles: Cliff Odom, 151, 98 solo.
Sacks: Duane Bickett, 6 for 58 yds.
Interceptions: Leonard Coleman, 4 for 36 yds.

1986 Results

3	at New England	33
10	at Miami	30
7	Los Angeles Rams	24
7	New York Jets	26
14	at San Francisco	35
14	New Orleans	17
13	at Buffalo	24
13	Miami	17
9	Cleveland	24
21	New England	30
16	at New York Jets	31
17	at Houston	31
3	San Diego	17
28	at Atlanta	23
24	Buffalo	14
30	at Los Angeles Raiders	24

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
61	Adickes, Mark	G	6-4	274	2	Baylor
76	Alt, John	T	6-7	282	4	Iowa
87	Arnold, Walt	TE	6-3	224	8	New Mex.
77	Baldinger, Rich	G-T	6-4	285	5	Wk. Forest
58	Baugh, Tom	C	6-3	274	2	So. Ill.
81	Bergmann, Paul	TE	6-2	235	2	UCLA
14	Blackledge, Todd	QB	6-3	223	5	Penn. St.
71	Budde, Brad	G	6-4	271	8	USC
34	Burruss, Lloyd	SS	6-0	209	7	Maryland
88	Carson, Carlos	WR	5-11	184	8	LSU
20	Cherry, Deron	FS	5-11	196	7	Rutgers
22	Cocroft, Sherman	DB	6-1	195	3	S. Jose St.
84	Coffman, Paul	TE	6-3	225	10	Kansas St.
54	Cofield, Tim	OLB	6-2	245	2	Eliz. Cty. St.
5	Colbert, Lewis	P	5-11	180	2	Auburn
55	Cooper, Louis	OLB	6-2	235	3	W. Car.
51	Donnalley, Rick	C	6-2	270	7	N.C.
75	Eatman, Ivy	T	6-7	293	2	UCLA
48	Garron, Andre	RB	5-11	193	2	New Ham.
40	Green, Boyce	RB	5-11	215	5	Cars. New.
98	Griffin, Leonard	DE	6-4	252	2	Grambling
56	Hackett, Dino	ILB	6-3	225	2	App. St.
82	Hancock, Anthony	WR-KR	6-0	204	6	Tennessee
86	Harry, Emile	WR	5-11	175	2	Stanford
85	Hayes, Jonathan	TE	6-5	236	3	Iowa
44	Heard, Herman	RB	5-10	190	4	So. Colo.
23	Hill, Greg	CB	6-1	199	5	Okla. St
93	Holle, Eric	DE-NT	6-5	265	4	Texas
73	Jozwiak, Brian	T	6-5	308	2	W. Va
9	Kenney, Bill	QB	6-4	211	9	N. Colo.
74	Koch, Pete	DE	6-6	275	4	Maryland
70	Lathrop, Kit	DE	6-5	261	4	Ariz. St.
29	Lewis, Albert	CB	6-2	192	5	Grambling
8	Lowery, Nick	K	6-4	189	8	Dartmouth
72	Lutz, David	T	6-6	295	5	Ga. Tech
63	Maas, Bill	NT	6-5	268	4	Pittsburgh
89	Marshall, Henry	WR	6-2	216	12	Missouri
32	Moriarty, Larry	RB	6-1	237	5	Notre D.
83	Paige, Stephone	WR	6-2	183	5	Fresno St.
57	Paul, Whitney	OLB	6-4	219	12	Colorado
96	Pearson, Aaron	ILB	6-0	236	2	Miss. St.
24	Pearson, J. C.	CB	5-11	183	2	Wash.
43	Pruitt, Mike	RB	6-0	225	12	Purdue
97	Radecic, Scott	ILB	6-3	242	4	Penn. St.
30	Robinson, Mark	S	5-11	206	4	Penn. St.
31	Ross, Kevin	CB	5-9	182	4	Temple
10	Seurer, Frank	QB	6-1	195	2	Kansas
47	Smith, Chris	RB	6-0	222	2	Notre D.
42	Smith, Jeff	RB-KR	5-9	201	3	Nebraska
67	Still, Art	DE	6-7	255	10	Kentucky

1986 Data

Record: 10-7-0 (includes playoffs), 2nd AFC West
Head Coach: Frank Gansz (NFL Record: 0-0)
Total Offense: 263.6 yds. per game
Total Defense: 308.4 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 22.4 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 20.4 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Bob Sprenger, Public Relations Director

1986 Leaders

Passing: Bill Kenney, 161-308-11-1922, 13 TDs.
Rushing: Mike Pruitt, 448 yds., 2 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Stephone Paige, 52 ct., 829 yds., 11 TDs.
Kicking: Nick Lowery, 43-43 PATs, 19-26 FGs, 100 points
Punting: Lewis Colbert, 99 punts, 40.7 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Jeff Smith, 29 ret., 19.2 avg.
Punt Returns: Jeff Smith, 29 ret., 8.4 avg.
Tackles: Dino Hackett, 140, 78 solo.
Sacks: Art Still, 10½ for 77 yds.
Interceptions: Deron Cherry, 9 for 150 yds.

1986 Results

	24	Cincinnati	13
	17	at Seattle	23
	27	Houston	13
	20	at Buffalo	17
	17	Los Angeles Raiders	24
	7	at Cleveland	20
	42	San Diego	41
	27	Tampa Bay	20
	24	at San Diego	23
	27	Seattle	7
	17	at Denver	38
	14	at St. Louis	23
	14	Buffalo	17
	37	Denver	10
	20	at Los Angeles Raiders	17
	24	at Pittsburgh	19
Playoffs:	15	at New York Jets	35

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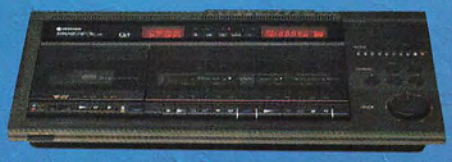

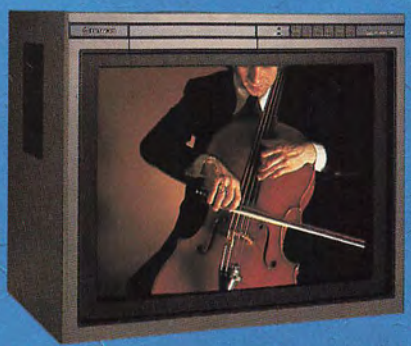

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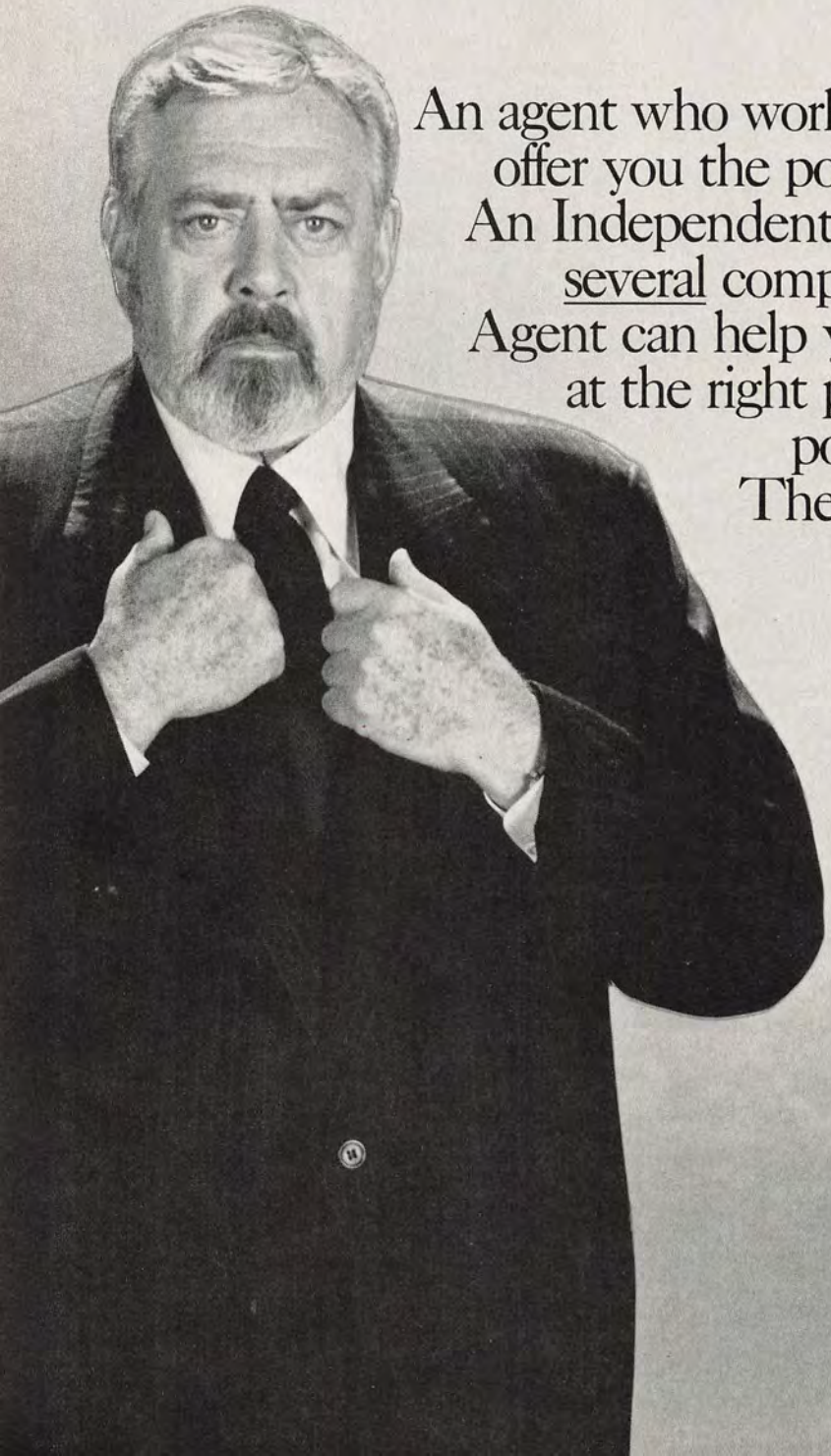

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LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
44	Adams, Stefon	S	5–10	185	2	E. Car.
32	Allen, Marcus	RB	6–2	205	6	USC
10	Bahr, Chris	K	5–10	170	12	Penn St.
56	Barnes, Jeff	LB	6–2	230	11	California
95	Buczkowski, Bob	DE	6–5	270	1	Pittsburgh
46	Christensen, Todd	TE	6–3	230	9	BYU
79	Davis, Bruce	T	6–6	280	8	UCLA
45	Davis, James	CB	6–0	190	6	Southern
80	Fernandez, Mervyn	WR	6–3	205	1	S. Jose St.
94	Franks, Elvis	DE	6–4	265	8	Morgan St.
8	Guy, Ray	P	6–3	200	15	So. Miss.
73	Hannah, Charley	G	6–5	265	11	Alabama
27	Hawkins, Frank	RB	5–9	210	7	Nev.-Reno
37	Hayes, Lester	CB	6–0	200	11	Texas A&M
22	Haynes, Mike	CB	6–0	190	12	Ariz. St.
84	Hester, Jessie	WR	5–11	170	3	Fla. St.
12	Hilger, Rusty	QB	6–4	210	3	Okla. St.
99	Jones, Sean	DE	6–7	265	4	N'eastern
74	Jordan, Shelby	T	6–7	280	11	Wash. (Mo)
87	Junkin, Trey	TE	6–2	225	5	La. Tech
59	Kimmel, Jamie	LB	6–3	235	2	Syracuse
52	King, Linden	LB	6–4	245	10	Colo. St.
70	Lawrence, Henry	T	6–4	270	14	Fla. A&M
51	Lewis, Bill	C	6–7	275	2	Nebraska
	Lofton, James	WR	6–3	197	10	Stanford
75	Long, Howie	DE	6–5	270	7	Villanova
60	Marsh, Curt	G	6–5	270	5	Wash.
53	Martin, Rod	LB	6–2	225	11	USC
65	Marvin, Mickey	G	6–4	265	11	Tennessee
26	McElroy, Vann	S	6–0	195	6	Baylor
54	McKenzie, Reggie	LB	6–1	240	3	Tennessee
55	Millen, Matt	LB	6–2	245	8	Penn St.
83	Moffett, Tim	WR	6–2	180	3	Mississippi
72	Mosebar, Don	C	6–6	275	5	USC
42	Mueller, Vance	RB	6–0	210	2	Occidental
81	Parker, Andy	TE	6–5	240	4	Utah
71	Pickel, Bill	DT	6–5	260	5	Rutgers
16	Plunkett, Jim	QB	6–2	220	17	Stanford
77	Riehm, Chris	G	6–6	275	2	Ohio St.
57	Robinson, Jerry	LB	6–2	225	9	UCLA
43	Seale, Sam	CB	5–9	180	4	W. St. (Co.)
39	Strachan, Steve	RB	6–1	215	3	Bost. Coll.
30	Toran, Stacey	S	6–2	200	4	Notre D.
93	Townsend, Greg	DE	6–3	250	5	TCU
41	Walker, Fulton	S	5–11	195	7	W. Va.
48	Washington, Lionel	CB	6–0	180	5	Tulane
67	Wheeler, Dwight	C-G	6–3	285	7	Tenn. St.
85	Williams, Dokie	WR	5–11	180	5	UCLA
98	Willis, Mitch	DT	6–8	275	3	SMU
6	Wilson, Marc	QB	6–6	205	8	BYU
90	Wise, Mike	DE	6–6	260	2	Cal-Davis

1986 Data

Record: 8–8–0, 4th AFC West
Head Coach: Tom Flores (NFL Record: 86–46)
Total Offense: 331.2 yds. per game
Total Defense: 300.3 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 20.2 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 21.6 ptpg.

Information provided by Los Angeles Raiders Public Relations Office.

1986 Leaders

Passing: Jim Plunkett, 133–252–9–1986, 14 TDs.
Rushing: Marcus Allen, 759 yds., 5 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Todd Christensen, 95 ct., 1153 yds., 8 TDs.
Kicking: Chris Bahr, 36–36 PATs, 21–28 FGs, 99 points.
Punting: Ray Guy, 90 punts, 40.2 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Stefon Adams, 27 ret., 21.2 avg.
Punt Returns: Fulton Walker, 49 ret., 9.0 avg., 1 TD.
Tackles: Vann McElroy.
Sacks: Sean Jones, 15½.
Interceptions: Vann McElroy, 7 for 105 yrds.

1986 Results

36	at Denver	38
6	at Washington	10
9	New York Giants	14
17	San Diego	13
24	at Kansas City	17
14	Seattle	10
30	at Miami	28
28	at Houston	17
10	Denver	21
17	at Dallas	13
27	Cleveland	14
37	at San Diego (OT)	31
27	Philadelphia (OT)	33
0	at Seattle	37
17	Kansas City	20
24	Indianapolis	30

LOS ANGELES RAMS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
89	Brown, Ron	WR	5–11	181	4	Ariz. St.
53	Busick, Steve	LB	6–4	227	2	USC
50	Collins, Jim	LB	6–2	235	7	Syracuse
64	Cox, Robert	T	6–5	258	2	UCLA
21	Cromwell, Nolan	S	6–1	200	11	Kansas
29	Dickerson, Eric	RB	6–3	218	5	SMU
8	Dils, Steve	QB	6–1	191	9	Stanford
71	Doss, Reggie	DE	6–4	263	10	Hamp.Inst.
55	Ekern, Carl	LB	6–3	230	11	S. Jose St.
80	Ellard, Henry	WR	5–11	175	5	Fresno St.
11	Everett, Jim	QB	6–5	212	2	Purdue
63	Goebel, Hank	T	6–7	270	2	Cal St. Ful.
25	Gray, Jerry	CB	6–0	185	3	Texas
91	Greene, Kevin	LB	6–3	238	3	Auburn
44	Guman, Mike	UB	6–2	218	8	Penn St.
60	Harrah, Dennis	G	6–5	265	13	Miami(Fl.)
3	Hatcher, Dale	P	6–2	200	3	Clemson
81	Hill, David	TE	6–2	240	12	Texas A&I
83	House, Kevin	WR	6–1	185	8	So. Ill.
87	Hunter, Tony	TE	6–4	237	5	Notre D.
47	Irvin, LeRoy	CB	5–11	184	8	Kansas
59	Jerue, Mark	LB	6–3	232	5	Wash.
77	Jeter, Gary	DE	6–4	260	11	USC
86	Johnson, Damone	TE	6–4	230	2	Cal.-Poly
20	Johnson, Johnnie	S	6–1	183	8	Texas
1	Lansford, Mike	K	6–0	183	6	Wash.
45	Long, Darren	TE	6–3	240	2	L. Bch. St.
67	Love, Duval	G	6–3	263	3	UCLA
69	Meisner, Greg	NT	6–3	253	7	Pittsburgh
12	Millen, Hugh	QB	6–4	216	2	Wash.
98	Miller, Shawn	NT	6–4	255	4	Utah St.
66	Newberry, Tom	G	6–2	279	2	WisLaC'se
22	Newsome, Vince	S	6–1	179	5	Wash.
58	Owens, Mel	LB	6–2	224	7	Michigan
75	Pankey, Irv	T	6–4	267	8	Penn St.
30	Redden, Barry	RB	5–10	205	6	Richmond
93	Reed, Doug	DE	6–3	262	4	S. Diego St.
76	Schad, Mike	T	6–5	290	2	Queen's
97	Schamel, Duke	LB	6–2	220	2	S.D.
84	Scott, Chuck	WR	6–2	202	3	Vanderbilt
78	Slater, Jackie	T	6–4	271	12	Jackson St.
61	Slaton, Tony	C	6–4	265	4	USC
56	Smith, Doug	C	6–3	253	10	B. Green
49	Sutton, Mickey	CB	5–8	165	2	Montana
32	Tyrrell, Tim	RB	6–1	201	4	No. Ill.
51	Vann, Norwood	LB	6–1	225	4	E. Car.
33	White, Charles	RB	5–10	190	7	USC
54	Wilcher, Mike	LB	6–3	240	5	N.C.
99	Wright, Alvin	NT	6–2	285	2	J'ville St.
88	Young, Michael	WR	6–1	185	3	UCLA

1986 Data

Record: 10–7–0 (includes playoffs), 2nd NFC West
Head Coach: John Robinson (NFL Record: 42–28)
Total Offense: 290.8 yds. per game
Total Defense: 304.4 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 19.3 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 16.7 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Pete Donovan, Director of Public Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: Jim Everett, 73–147–8–1018, 8 TDs.
Rushing: Eric Dickerson, 1821 yds., 11 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Henry Ellard, 34 ct., 447 yds., 4 TDs.
Kicking: Mike Lansford, 34–35 PATs, 17–24 FGs, 85 points.
Punting: Dale Hatcher, 97 punts, 38.6 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Ron Brown, 36 ret., 22.1 avg.
Punt Returns: Henry Ellard, 14 ret., 9.1 avg.
Tackles: Vince Newsome, 113, 91 solo.
Sacks: Gary Jeter, 8 for 78.5 yds.
Interceptions: Jerry Gray, 8 for 101 yds.

1986 Results

	16	at St. Louis	10
	16	San Francisco	13
	24	at Indianapolis	7
	20	at Philadelphia	34
	26	Tampa Bay (OT)	20
	14	at Atlanta	26
	14	Detroit	10
	14	Atlanta	7
	20	at Chicago	17
	0	at New Orleans	6
	28	New England	30
	26	New Orleans	13
	17	at New York Jets	3
	29	Dallas	10
	31	Miami (OT)	37
	14	at San Francisco	24
Playoffs:	7	at Washington	19

MIAMI DOLPHINS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
73	Baumhower, Bob	NT	6-5	265	10	Alabama
34	Bennett, Woody	FB	6-2	225	9	Miami(Fl.)
75	Betters, Doug	DE	6-7	265	10	Nev.-Reno
47	Blackwood, Glenn	S	6-0	190	9	Texas
43	Brown, Bud	S	6-0	194	4	So. Miss.
32	Brown, Donald	CB	5-11	189	2	Maryland
51	Brown, Mark	LB	6-2	230	5	Purdue
59	Brudzinski, Bob	LB	6-4	223	11	Ohio St.
71	Charles, Mike	NT	6-4	287	5	Syracuse
83	Clayton, Mark	WR	5-9	175	5	Louisville
30	Davenport, Ron	FB	6-2	230	3	Louisville
65	Dellenbach, Jeff	T	6-6	280	3	Wisconsin
85	Duper, Mark	WR	5-9	187	6	NW La. St.
33	Ellis, Craig	RB	5-11	180	2	S. Diego St.
61	Foster, Roy	G	6-4	275	6	USC
53	Frye, David	LB	6-2	227	5	Purdue
79	Giesler, Jon	T	6-5	265	9	Michigan
55	Green, Hugh	LB	6-2	225	7	Pittsburgh
27	Hampton, Lorenzo	RB	6-0	212	3	Florida
84	Hardy, Bruce	TE	6-5	232	10	Ariz. St.
90	Hendel, Andy	LB	6-1	230	2	N.C. State
11	Jensen, Jim	WR	6-4	215	7	Boston U.
87	Johnson, Dan	TE	6-3	240	5	Iowa St.
49	Judson, William	CB	6-2	190	6	S.C. State
64	Katolin, Mike	C	6-3	270	2	S. Jose St.
68	Koch, Greg	T	6-4	276	11	Arkansas
94	Kolic, Larry	LB	6-1	242	2	Ohio St.
40	Kozlowski, Mike	S	6-1	198	8	Colorado
44	Lankford, Paul	CB	6-2	184	6	Penn St.
66	Lee, Larry	C	6-2	263	7	UCLA
72	Lee, Ronnie	G	6-4	265	9	Baylor
99	Little, George	DE	6-4	278	3	Iowa
13	Marino, Dan	QB	6-4	214	5	Pittsburgh
28	McNeal, Don	CB	5-11	192	7	Alabama
89	Moore, Nat	WR	5-9	188	14	Florida
22	Nathan, Tony	RB	6-0	206	9	Alabama
56	Offerdahl, John	LB	6-2	232	2	W. Mich.
82	Pruitt, James	WR	6-2	199	2	Cal. St. Ful.
7	Reveiz, Fuad	K	5-11	222	3	Tennessee
91	Robinson, Fred	LB	6-5	238	4	Miami(Fl.)
4	Roby, Reggie	P	6-2	243	5	Iowa
26	Rose, Donovan	S	6-1	190	3	Hampton
80	Rose, Joe	TE	6-3	230	8	California
52	Sendlein, Robin	LB	6-3	225	7	Texas
50	Shipp, Jackie	LB	6-2	236	4	Oklahoma
25	Smith, Mike	CB	6-0	171	3	Texas-E.P
70	Sochia, Brian	NT	6-3	274	5	NWOkla.St.
57	Stephenson, Dwight	C	6-2	255	8	Alabama
10	Strock, Don	QB	6-5	225	14	Va. Tech
24	Thompson, Reyna	CB	5-11	194	2	Baylor
76	Toth, Tom	T	6-5	275	2	W. Mich.
95	Turner, T.J.	DE	6-4	265	2	Houston

1986 Data

Record: 8-8-0, 3rd AFC East
Head Coach: Don Shula (NFL Record: 263-107-6)
Total Offense: 395.3 yds. per game
Total Defense: 378.1 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 26.9 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 25.3 ptpg.

Information provided by the Miami Dolphins Publicity Office

1986 Leaders

Passing: Dan Marino, 378-623-23-4746, 44 TDs.
Rushing: Lorenzo Hampton, 830 yds., 9 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Mark Duper, 67 ct., 1313 yds., 11 TDs.
Kicking: Fuad Reveiz, 52-55 PATs, 14-22 FGs, 94 points.
Punting: Reggie Roby, 56 punts, 44.2 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Craig Ellis, 25 ret., 21.6 avg.
Punt Returns: James Pruitt, 11 ret., 13.6 avg., 1 TD.
Tackles: John Offerdahl, 135, 109 solo.
Sacks: Mark Brown, 5 for 47 yds.
Interceptions: Four players with 2.

1986 Results

28	at San Diego	50
30	Indianapolis	10
45	at New York Jets (OT)	51
16	San Francisco	31
7	at New England	34
27	Buffalo	14
28	Los Angeles Raiders	30
17	at Indianapolis	13
28	Houston	7
16	at Cleveland	26
34	at Buffalo	24
45	New York Jets	3
14	Atlanta	20
31	at New Orleans	27
37	at Los Angeles Rams (OT)	31
27	New England	34

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
46	Anderson, Alfred	RB	6-1	220	4	Baylor
58	Ashley, Walker Lee	LB	6-0	237	4	Penn St.
21	Bess, Rufus	CB	5-9	189	9	S.C. State
23	Brown, Ted	RB	5-10	212	9	N.C. State
47	Browner, Joey	S	6-2	212	5	USC
81	Carter, Anthony	WR	5-11	175	3	Michigan
8	Coleman, Greg	P	6-0	184	11	Fla. A&M
56	Doleman, Chris	LB	6-5	250	3	Pittsburgh
26	Evans, David	CB	6-0	178	2	C. Ark.
	Freeman, Steve	S	5-11	185	13	Miss. St.
41	Guggemos, Neal	S	6-0	187	2	St. Thomas
80	Gustafson, Jim	WR	6-1	181	2	St. Thomas
44	Harris, John	S	6-2	198	10	Ariz. St.
82	Hilton, Carl	TE	6-3	232	2	Houston
30	Holt, Issiac	CB	6-1	200	3	Alcorn St.
51	Hough, Jim	C-G	6-2	269	10	Utah St.
99	Howard, David	LB	6-2	232	3	L. Bch. St.
72	Huffman, David	T	6-6	284	8	Notre D.
76	Irwin, Tim	T	6-7	288	7	Tennessee
84	Jones, Hassan	WR	6-0	195	2	Fla. St.
83	Jordan, Steve	TE	6-3	239	6	Brown
9	Kramer, Tommy	QB	6-2	205	11	Rice
39	Lee, Carl	DB	5-11	187	5	Marshall
87	Lewis, Leo	WR	5-8	170	7	Missouri
63	Lowdermilk, Kirk	C	6-3	269	3	Ohio St.
27	Lush, Mike	S	6-2	195	2	E. S'sburg
71	MacDonald, Mark	G	6-4	267	3	Bost. Coll.
57	Martin, Chris	LB	6-2	239	5	Auburn
79	Martin, Doug	DE	6-3	264	8	Wash.
75	Millard, Keith	DT	6-6	262	3	Wash St.
86	Mularkey, Mike	TE	6-4	234	5	Florida
77	Mullaney, Mark	DE	6-6	248	13	Colo. St.
1	Nelson, Chuck	K	5-11	172	4	Wash.
20	Nelson, Darrin	RB	5-9	189	6	Stanford
96	Newton, Tim	DT	6-0	287	3	Florida
91	Phillips, Joe	DT	6-4	278	2	SMU
88	Rhymes, Buster	WR	6-1	218	3	Oklahoma
36	Rice, Allen	RB	5-10	204	4	Baylor
95	Robinson, Gerald	DE	6-3	256	2	Auburn
68	Rouse, Curtis	G	6-3	335	6	Tn.-Chatt.
78	Schippang, Gary	T	6-4	279	2	W. Chester
53	Schuh, Jeff	LB	6-3	234	7	Minnesota
54	Solomon, Jesse	LB	6-0	235	2	Fla. St.
74	Stensrud, Mike	DT	6-5	280	9	Iowa St.
55	Studwell, Scott	LB	6-2	230	11	Illinois
67	Swilley, Dennis	C	6-3	266	10	Texas A&M
66	Tausch, Terry	G	6-5	276	6	Texas
37	Teal, Willie	CB	5-10	192	8	LSU
11	Wilson, Wade	QB	6-3	213	7	E. Tex. St.
65	Zimmerman, Gary	T	6-6	277	2	Oregon

1986 Data

Record: 9-7-0, 2nd NFC Central
Head Coach: Jerry Burns (NFL Record: 9-7-0)
Total Offense: 353.2 yds. per game
Total Defense: 313.3 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 24.9 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 17.1 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Merrill Swanson, Director of Public Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: Tommy Kramer, 208-372-10-3000, 24 TDs.
Rushing: Darrin Nelson, 793 yds., 4 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Steve Jordan, 58 ct., 859 yds., 6 TDs.
Kicking: Chuck Nelson, 44-47 PATs, 22-28 FGs, 110 points.
Punting: Greg Coleman, 67 punts, 41.4 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Rufus Bess, 31 ret., 22.7 avg.
Punt Returns: Rufus Bess, 23 ret., 7.0 avg.
Tackles: Joey Browner, 139, 98 solo.
Sacks: Keith Millard, 10½ for 74.5 yds.
Interceptions: Issiac Holt, 8 for 54 yds.

1986 Results

10	Detroit	13
23	at Tampa Bay	10
31	Pittsburgh	7
42	Green Bay	7
0	at Chicago	23
27	at San Francisco (OT)	24
23	Chicago	7
20	Cleveland	23
38	at Washington (OT)	44
24	at Detroit	10
20	New York Giants	22
20	at Cincinnati	24
45	Tampa Bay	13
32	at Green Bay	6
10	at Houston	23
33	New Orleans	17

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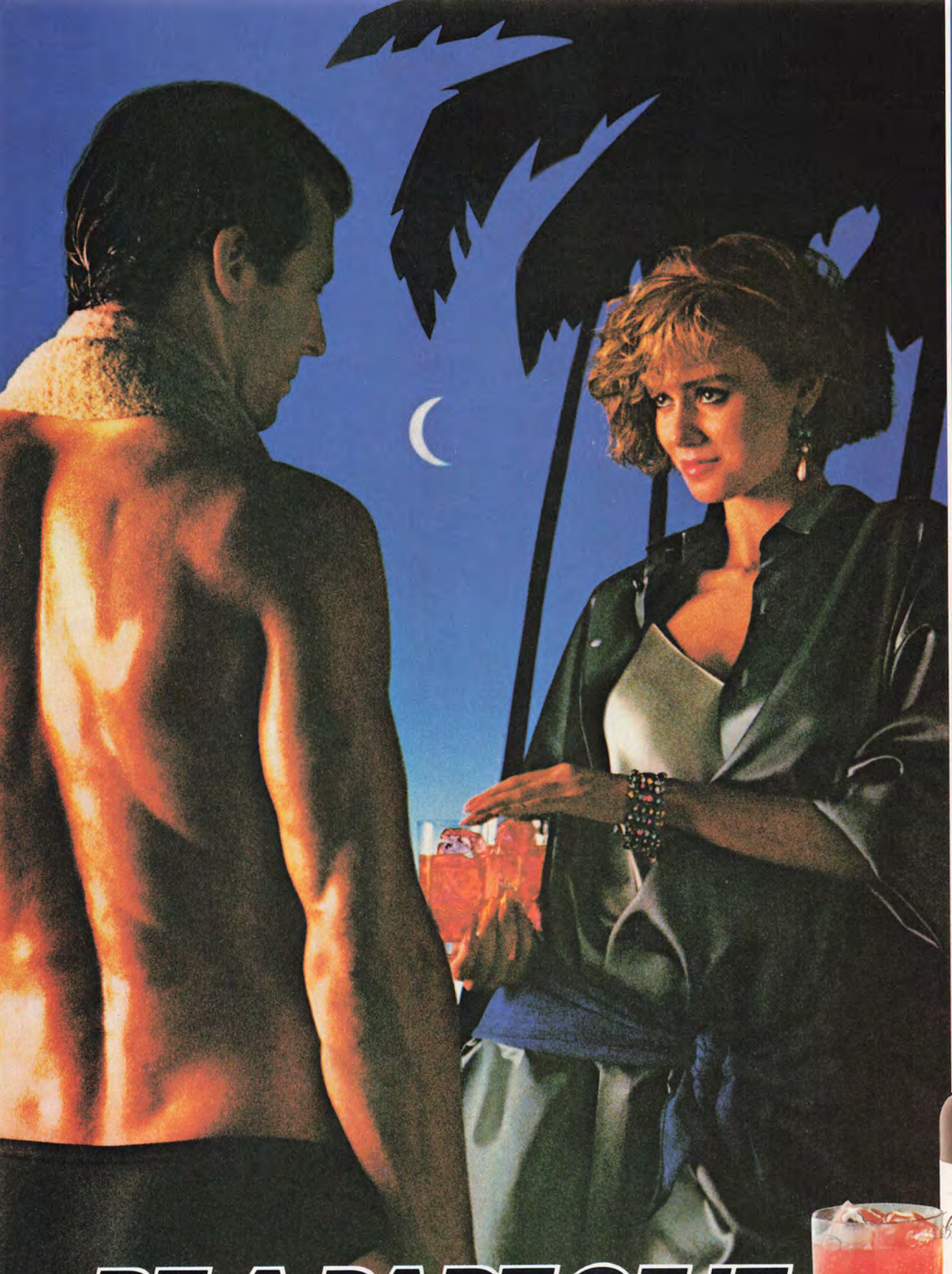

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NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
48	Baty, Greg	TE	6–5	241	2	Stanford
55	Blackmon, Don	LB	6–3	235	7	Tulsa
28	Bowman, Jim	S	6–2	210	3	C. Mich.
58	Brock, Pete	C	6–5	275	12	Colorado
3	Camarillo, Rich	P	5–11	185	7	Wash.
26	Clayborn, Raymond	CB	6–0	186	11	Texas
33	Collins, Tony	HB	5–11	212	7	E. Car.
87	Dawson, Lin	TE	6–3	240	7	N.C. State
59	Doig, Steve	LB	6–2	240	5	New Ham.
21	Dupard, Reggie	HB	5–11	205	2	SMU
11	Eason, Tony	QB	6–4	212	5	Illinois
66	Fairchild, Paul	G	6–4	270	4	Kansas
	Farrell, Sean	G	6–3	260	6	Penn St.
1	Franklin, Tony	K	5–8	182	9	Texas A&M
80	Fryar, Irving	WR-KR	6–0	200	4	Nebraska
43	Gibson, Ernest	CB	5–10	185	4	Furman
14	Grogan, Steve	QB	6–4	210	13	Kansas St.
68	Haley, Darryl	T-G	6–4	265	5	Utah
27	Hawthorne, Greg	TE	6–2	235	9	Baylor
97	Hodge, Milford	DE	6–3	278	2	Wash. St.
76	Holloway, Brian	T	6–7	288	7	Stanford
51	Ingram, Brian	LB	6–4	235	6	Tennessee
32	James, Craig	RB	6–0	215	4	SMU
38	James, Roland	S	6–2	191	8	Tennessee
83	Jones, Cedric	WR	6–1	184	6	Duke
42	Lippett, Ronnie	CB	5–11	180	5	Miami(Fl.)
31	Marion, Fred	S	6–2	191	6	Miami(Fl.)
64	Matich, Trevor	C	6–4	270	3	BYU
50	McGrew, Lawrence	LB	6–5	233	7	USC
23	McSwain, Rod	CB	6–1	198	4	Clemson
67	Moore, Steve	G-T	6–5	305	5	Tenn. St.
86	Morgan, Stanley	WR	5–11	181	11	Tennessee
57	Nelson, Steve	LB	6–2	230	14	N.D. State
98	Owens, Dennis	NT	6–1	258	6	N.C. State
70	Plunkett, Art	T	6–8	282	7	Nev.-L.V.
22	Profit, Eugene	DB	5–10	165	2	Yale
12	Ramsey, Tom	QB	6–1	189	3	UCLA
52	Rembert, Johnny	LB	6–3	234	5	Clemson
95	Reynolds, Ed	LB	6–5	242	5	Virginia
65	Ruth, Mike	DT	6–1	266	2	Bost. Coll.
88	Scott, Willie	TE	6–4	245	7	S.C.
77	Sims, Kenneth	DE	6–5	271	6	Texas
81	Starring, Stephen	WR-KR	5–10	172	5	McN'se St.
30	Tatupu, Mosi	RB	6–0	227	10	USC
56	Tippett, Andre	LB	6–3	241	6	Iowa
60	Veris, Garin	DE	6–4	255	3	Stanford
24	Weathers, Robert	RB	6–2	225	6	Ariz. St.
96	Williams, Brent	DT	6–3	278	2	Toledo
82	Williams, Derwin	WR	6–1	185	3	New Mex.
54	Williams, Ed	LB	6–4	244	4	Texas
90	Williams, Toby	DL	6–4	270	5	Nebraska
61	Wooten, Ron	G	6–4	273	6	N.C.

1986 Data

Record: 11-6-0 (includes playoffs), 1st AFC East
Head Coach: Raymond Berry (NFL Record: 29–16)
Total Offense: 332.9 yds. per game
Total Defense: 323.8 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 25.8 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 19.2 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Jim Greenidge, Director of Publicity

1986 Leaders

Passing: Tony Eason, 276–448–10–3328, 19 TDs.
Rushing: Craig James, 427 yds., 4 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Stanley Morgan, 84 ct., 1491 yds., 10 TDs.
Kicking: Tony Franklin, 44–45 PATs, 32–41 FGs, 140 points.
Punting: Rich Camarillo, 89 punts, 42.1 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Stephen Starring, 36 ret., 22.3 avg.
Punt Returns: Irving Fryar, 35 ret., 10.5 avg., 1 TD.
Tackles: Fred Marion, 122, 95 solo.
Sacks: Garin Veris, 11 for 74 yds.
Interceptions: Ronnie Lippett, 8 for 76 yds.

1986 Results

	33	Indianapolis	3
	20	at New York Jets	6
	31	Seattle	38
	20	at Denver	27
	34	Miami	7
	24	New York Jets	31
	34	at Philadelphia	0
	23	at Buffalo	3
	25	Atlanta	17
	30	at Indianapolis	21
	30	at Los Angeles Rams	28
	22	Buffalo	19
	21	at New Orleans	20
	7	Cincinnati	31
	24	San Francisco	29
	34	at Miami	27
Playoffs:	17	at Denver	22

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
7	Andersen, Morten	K	6–2	221	6	Mich. St.
96	Andrus, Sheldon	NT	6-1	271	2	Nicholls
85	Brenner, Hoby	TE	6–4	245	7	USC
67	Brock, Stan	T	6–6	292	8	Colorado
75	Clark, Bruce	DE	6–3	274	6	Penn St.
66	Commiskey, Chuck	G	6–4	290	2	Mississippi
70	Contz, Bill	T	6–5	270	5	Penn St.
50	Del Rio, Jack	LB	6–4	238	3	USC
72	Dombrowski, Jim	T	6–6	289	2	Virginia
95	Dumbauld, Jon	DE	6–4	259	2	Kentucky
63	Edelman, Brad	G	6–6	270	6	Missouri
83	Edwards, Kelvin	WR	6–2	197	2	Liberty
99	Elliott, Tony	NT	6–2	275	6	N.Tex.St.
43	Fowler, Bobby	FB	6–2	230	3	La. Tech.
46	Gajan, Hokie	FB	5–11	226	6	LSU
97	Geathers, James	DE	6–7	290	4	Wichita St.
27	Gibson, Antonio	SS	6–3	204	2	Cincinnati
77	Gilbert, Daren	T	6–6	295	3	Cal. St. Ful.
88	Goodlow, Eugene	WR	6–2	186	5	Kansas St.
37	Gray, Mel	HB	5–9	166	2	Purdue
10	Hansen, Brian	P	6–3	209	4	Sioux Falls
80	Harris, Herbert	WR	6–1	206	2	Lamar
92	Haynes, James	LB	6–2	233	4	Miss. Val.
3	Hebert, Bobby	QB	6–4	215	3	NW La. St.
61	Hilgenberg, Joel	C-G	6–3	252	4	Iowa
40	Hilliard, Dalton	HB	5–8	204	2	LSU
57	Jackson, Rickey	LB	6–2	243	7	Pittsburgh
22	Jakes, Van	CB	6–0	190	2	Kent St.
24	Johnson, Bobby	DB	6–0	187	5	Texas
53	Johnson, Vaughan	LB	6–3	235	2	N.C. State
86	Jones, Mike	WR	5–11	183	5	Tenn. St.
23	Jordan, Buford	FB	6–0	223	2	McN'se St.
55	Kohlbrand, Joe	LB	6–4	242	3	Miami(Fl.)
60	Korte, Steve	C	6–2	269	5	Arkansas
84	Martin, Eric	WR	6–1	207	3	LSU
39	Maxie, Brett	FS	6–2	194	3	Texas So.
36	Mayes, Rueben	HB	5–11	200	2	Wash. St.
42	McLemore, Dana	CB	5–10	183	6	Hawaii
51	Mills, Sam	LB	5–9	225	2	Montclair
25	Poe, Johnnie	CB	6–1	194	7	Missouri
68	Saindon, Pat	G	6–3	273	2	Vanderbilt
56	Swilling, Pat	LB	6–3	242	2	Ga. Tech
82	Tice, John	TE	6–5	249	5	Maryland
54	Toles, Alvin	LB	6–1	227	3	Tennessee
73	Warren, Frank	DE	6–4	290	7	Auburn
49	Wattelet, Frank	FS	6–0	186	7	Kansas
44	Waymer, Dave	CB	6–1	188	8	Notre D.
94	Wilks, Jim	DE	6–5	266	7	S. Diego St.
45	Williams, John	FB	5–11	213	2	Wisconsin
79	Williams, Ralph	G	6–3	270	5	Southern
18	Wilson, Dave	QB	6–3	206	6	Illinois
30	Wilson, Wayne	FB	6–3	220	9	Shepherd

1986 Data

Record: 7-9-0, 4th NFC West
Head Coach: Jim Mora (NFL Record: 7–9–0)
Total Offense: 296.4 yds. per game
Total Defense: 318.9 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 18.0 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 17.9 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Greg Suit, Director of Public Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: Dave Wilson, 189-342-17-2353, 10 TDs.
Rushing: Rueben Mayes, 1353 yds., 8 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Eric Martin, 37 ct., 675 yds., 5 TDs.
Kicking: Morten Andersen, 30-30 PATs, 26-30 FGs, 108 points.
Punting: Brian Hansen, 81 punts, 42.7 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Mel Gray, 31 ret., 27.9 avg.
Punt Returns: Eric Martin, 24 ret., 9.5 avg.
Tackles: Rickey Jackson, 117, 87 solo.
Sacks: R. Jackson, 9 for 71 yds.; James Geathers, 9 for 73 yds.
Interceptions: Dave Waymer, 9 for 48 yds.

1986 Results

10	Atlanta	31
24	Green Bay	10
17	at San Francisco	26
17	at New York Giants	20
6	Washington	14
17	at Indianapolis	14
38	Tampa Bay	7
23	at New York Jets	28
23	San Francisco	10
6	Los Angeles Rams	0
16	at St. Louis	7
13	at Los Angeles Rams	26
20	New England	21
27	Miami	31
14	at Atlanta	9
17	at Minnesota	33

NEW YORK GIANTS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
33	Adams, George	RB	6–1	225	3	Kentucky
2	Allegre, Raul	K	5–10	167	5	Texas
24	Anderson, Ottis	RB	6–2	225	9	Miami(Fl.)
67	Ard, Bill	G	6–3	270	7	Wk. Forest
58	Banks, Carl	LB	6–4	235	4	Mich. St.
89	Bavaro, Mark	TE	6–4	245	3	Notre D.
60	Benson, Brad	T	6–3	270	10	Penn St.
64	Burt, Jim	NT	6–1	260	7	Miami(Fl.)
53	Carson, Harry	LB	6–2	240	12	S.C. State
44	Carthon, Maurice	RB	6–1	225	3	Ark. St.
25	Collins, Mark	CB	5–10	190	2	Cal. St. Ful.
39	Davis, Tyrone	CB	6–1	190	3	Clemson
77	Dorsey, Eric	DE	6–5	280	2	Notre D.
28	Flynn, Tom	S	6–0	195	4	Pittsburgh
30	Galbreath, Tony	RB	6–0	228	12	Missouri
61	Godfrey, Chris	G	6–3	265	5	Michigan
54	Headen, Andy	LB	6–5	242	5	Clemson
48	Hill, Kenny	S	6–0	195	7	Yale
15	Hostetler, Jeff	QB	6–3	212	4	W. Va.
74	Howard, Erik	NT	6–4	268	2	Wash. St.
57	Hunt, Byron	LB	6–5	242	7	SMU
88	Johnson, Bob	WR	5–11	171	4	Kansas
68	Johnson, Damian	T	6–5	290	2	Kansas St.
52	Johnson, Thomas	LB	6–3	248	2	Ohio. St.
59	Johnston, Brian	C	6–3	275	2	N.C.
51	Jones, Robbie	LB	6–2	230	4	Alabama
69	Jordan, David	G	6–6	276	4	Auburn
43	Kinard, Terry	S	6–1	200	5	Clemson
5	Landeta, Sean	P	6–0	200	3	Towson St.
46	Lasker, Greg	S	6–0	200	2	Arkansas
86	Manuel, Lionel	WR	5–11	180	4	Pacific
70	Marshall, Leonard	DE	6–3	285	5	LSU
75	Martin, George	DE	6–4	255	13	Oregon
80	McConkey, Phil	WR	5–10	170	4	Navy
76	McGriff, Curtis	DE	6–5	276	8	Alabama
87	Miller, Solomon	WR	6–1	185	2	Utah St.
20	Morris, Joe	RB	5–7	195	6	Syracuse
84	Mowatt, Zeke	TE	6–3	240	4	Fla. St.
63	Nelson, Karl	T	6–6	285	4	Iowa St.
65	Oates, Bart	C	6–3	265	3	BYU
34	Patterson, Elvis	CB	5–11	188	4	Kansas
55	Reasons, Gary	LB	6–4	234	4	NW La. St.
66	Roberts, William	T	6–5	280	3	Ohio St.
81	Robinson, Stacy	WR	5–11	186	3	N.D. State
22	Rouson, Lee	RB	6–1	222	3	Colorado
17	Rutledge, Jeff	QB	6–1	195	9	Alabama
78	Sally, Jerome	NT	6–3	270	6	Missouri
11	Simms, Phil	QB	6–3	214	9	M'head St.
56	Taylor, Lawrence	LB	6–3	243	7	N.C.
73	Washington, John	DE	6–4	275	2	Okla. St.
27	Welch, Herb	DB	5–11	180	3	UCLA
23	Williams, Perry	CB	6–2	203	4	N.C. State

1986 Data

Record: 17–2–0 (includes playoffs), 1st NFC East
Head Coach: Bill Parcells (NFL Record: 41–29–1)
Total Offense: 336.1 yds. per game
Total Defense: 297.3 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 23.2 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 14.8 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Ed Croke, Director of Media Services

1986 Leaders

Passing: Phil Simms, 259–468–22–3487, 21 TDs.
Rushing: Joe Morris, 1516 yds., 14 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Mark Bavaro, 66 ct., 1001 yds., 4 TDs.
Kicking: Raul Allegre, 33–33 PATs, 24–32 FGs, 105 points.
Punting: Sean Landeta, 79 punts, 44.8 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Phil McConkey, 24 ret., 19.6 avg.
Punt Returns: Phil McConkey, 32 ret., 7.9 avg.
Tackles: Carl Banks, 120, 87 solo.
Sacks: Lawrence Taylor, 20½ for 137 yds.
Interceptions: Terry Kinard and Perry Williams, 4.

1986 Results

	28	at Dallas	31
	20	San Diego	7
	14	at Los Angeles Raiders	9
	20	New Orleans	17
	13	at St. Louis	6
	35	Philadelphia	3
	12	at Seattle	17
	27	Washington	20
	17	Dallas	14
	17	at Philadelphia	14
	22	at Minnesota	20
	19	Denver	16
	21	at San Francisco	17
	24	at Washington	14
	27	St. Louis	7
	55	Green Bay	24
Playoffs:	49	San Francisco	3
	17	Washington	0
	39	Denver	20

NEW YORK JETS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
60	Alexander, Dan	G	6–4	268	11	LSU
95	Baldwin, Tom	DT	6–4	270	4	Tulsa
63	Banker, Ted	OL	6–2	265	4	SE M'souri
31	Barber, Marion	FB	6–3	228	6	Minnesota
78	Bennett, Barry	DE-DT	6–4	260	10	Concordia
54	Benson, Troy	LB	6–2	235	2	Pittsburgh
64	Bingham, Guy	OL	6–3	260	8	Montana
22	Bruckner, Nick	RB	5–11	185	5	Syracuse
27	Carter, Russell	DB	6–2	195	4	SMU
59	Clifton, Kyle	LB	6–4	230	4	TCU
50	Crable, Bob	LB	6–3	230	6	Notre D.
30	Faaola, Nuu	RB	5–11	215	2	Hawaii
65	Fields, Joe	C	6–2	253	13	Widener
98	Foster, Jerome	DE	6–2	275	4	Ohio St.
99	Gastineau, Mark	DE	6–5	270	9	E.C. Okla.
35	Glenn, Kerry	CB	5–9	175	3	Minnesota
81	Griggs, Billy	TE	6–3	230	3	Virginia
94	Guilbeau, Rusty	LB	6–4	235	6	McN'se St.
79	Haight, Mike	G-T	6–4	270	2	Iowa
39	Hamilton, Harry	S	6–0	195	4	Penn St.
84	Harper, Michael	WR	5–10	180	2	USC
34	Hector, Johnny	RB	5–11	200	5	Texas A&M
47	Holmes, Jerry	CB	6–2	175	6	W. Va.
28	Howard, Carl	DB	6–2	190	4	Rutgers
48	Humphery, Bobby	CB-KR	5–10	180	4	N. Mex. St.
13	Jennings, Dave	P	6–4	200	14	St. Law.
80	Jones, Johnny	WR	5–11	185	7	Texas
72	King, Gordon	T-G	6–6	270	9	Stanford
73	Klecko, Joe	DT-DE	6–3	265	11	Temple
89	Klever, Rocky	TE	6–3	228	5	Montana
5	Leahy, Pat	K	6–0	200	14	St. Louis
26	Lyles, Lester	S-LB	6–3	218	3	Virginia
29	Lynn, Johnny	DB	6–0	198	8	UCLA
93	Lyons, Marty	DE-DT	6–5	269	9	Alabama
57	McArthur, Kevin	LB	6–2	230	2	Lamar
68	McElroy, Reggie	T	6–6	275	5	W.Tex.St.
24	McNeil, Freeman	RB	5–11	214	7	UCLA
56	Mehl, Lance	LB	6–3	233	8	Penn St.
36	Miano, Rich	S	6–0	200	3	Hawaii
58	Monger, Matt	LB	6–1	238	3	Okla. St.
74	Moore, Derland	NT	6–4	273	15	Oklahoma
7	O'Brien, Ken	QB	6–4	208	5	Cal-Davis
49	Paige, Tony	FB	5–10	225	4	Va. Tech
10	Ryan, Pat	QB	6–3	210	10	Tennessee
82	Shuler, Mickey	TE	6–3	231	10	Penn St.
87	Sohn, Kurt	WR-KR	5–11	180	6	Fordham
53	Sweeney, Jim	T-G	6–4	260	4	Pittsburgh
88	Toon, Al	WR	6–4	205	3	Wisconsin
83	Townsell, JoJo	WR	5–9	180	3	UCLA
85	Walker, Wesley	WR	6–0	182	11	California

1986 Data

Record: 11–7–0 (includes playoffs), 2nd AFC East
Head Coach: Joe Walton (NFL Record: 36–31)
Total Offense: 335.9 yds. per game
Total Defense: 378.1 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 22.8 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 24.1 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Frank Ramos, Director of Public Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: Ken O'Brien, 300–482–20–3690, 25 TDs.
Rushing: Freeman McNeil, 856 yds., 5 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Al Toon, 85 ct., 1176 yds., 8 TDs.
Kicking: Pat Leahy, 44–44 PATs, 16–19 FGs, 92 points.
Punting: Dave Jennings, 85 punts, 39.4 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Bobby Humphery, 28 ret., 23.4 avg., 1 TD.
Punt Returns: Kurt Sohn, 35 ret., 8.3 avg.
Tackles: Kyle Clifton, 174, 108 solo.
Sacks: Joe Klecko and Bobby Humphery, 4.
Interceptions: Jerry Holmes, 6 for 29 yds.

1986 Results

	28	at Buffalo	24
	6	New England	20
	51	Miami (OT)	45
	26	at Indianapolis	7
	14	Buffalo	13
	31	at New England	24
	22	Denver	10
	28	New Orleans	23
	38	at Seattle	7
	28	at Atlanta	14
	31	Indianapolis	16
	3	at Miami	45
	3	Los Angeles Rams	17
	10	at San Francisco	24
	24	Pittsburgh	45
	21	at Cincinnati	52
Playoffs:	35	Kansas City	15
	20	at Cleveland (OT)	23

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PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
63	Baker, Ron	G	6–4	274	10	Okla. St.
77	Black, Mike	T-G	6–4	290	2	Sacramento
98	Brown, Greg	DE	6–5	265	7	Kansas St.
42	Byars, Keith	RB	6–1	230	2	Ohio St.
6	Cavanaugh, Matt	QB	6–2	212	10	Pittsburgh
71	Clarke, Ken	DT	6–2	275	10	Syracuse
50	Cobb, Garry	LB	6–2	230	9	USC
79	Conwell, Joe	T	6–5	275	2	N.C.
21	Cooper, Evan	CB-PR	5–11	184	4	MichIgan
45	Crawford, Charles	RB-KR	6–2	235	2	Okla. St.
12	Cunningham, Randall	QB	6–4	192	3	Nev.-L.V.
84	Darby, Byron	TE	6–4	262	5	USC
78	Darwin, Matt	C	6–4	260	2	Texas A&M
67	Feehery, Gerry	C	6–2	270	5	Syracuse
29	Foules, Elbert	CB	5–11	185	5	Alcorn St.
33	Frizzell, William	S	6–3	198	4	N.C. Cent.
86	Garrity, Gregg	WR-PR	5–10	169	5	Penn. St.
26	Haddix, Michael	FB	6–2	227	5	Mississippi
62	Haden, Nick	G-C	6–2	270	2	Penn St.
34	Hoage, Terry	S	6–3	199	4	Georgia
48	Hopkins, Wes	FS	6–1	212	5	SMU
81	Jackson, Kenny	WR	6–0	180	4	Penn. St.
53	Jiles, Dwayne	LB	6–4	242	3	Texas Tech
54	Johnson, Alonzo	LB	6–3	222	2	Florida
85	Johnson, Ron	WR	6–3	186	3	L. Bch. St.
59	Joyner, Seth	LB	6–2	241	2	Texas-E.P.
52	Kraynak, Rich	LB	6–1	230	5	Pittsburgh
65	Landsee, Bob	OL	6–4	273	2	Wisconsin
58	Lee, Byron	LB	6–2	230	2	Ohio St.
89	Little, Dave	TE	6–2	236	4	Mid-Tenn.
8	McFadden, Paul	K	5–11	163	4	Y'town St.
74	Mitchell, Leonard	T	6–7	295	7	Houston
82	Quick, Mike	WR	6–2	190	6	N. C. State
66	Reeves, Ken	G-T	6–5	275	3	Texas A&M
55	Reichenbach, Mike	LB	6–2	238	4	E. S'sburg
76	Schreiber, Adam	G-C	6–4	270	4	Texas
95	Schulz, Jody	LB	6–3	235	4	E. Car.
96	Simmons, Clyde	DE	6–6	258	2	W. Car.
97	Singletary, Reggie	DT	6–3	272	2	N.C. State
83	Smith, Phil	WR	6–3	188	4	S. Diego St.
88	Spagnola, John	TE	6–4	242	8	Yale
93	Strauthers, Tom	DE	6–4	264	5	Jackson St.
37	Tautalatasi, Junior	RB	5–10	205	2	Wash. St.
10	Teltschik, John	P	6–2	215	2	Texas
25	Toney, Anthony	FB	6–0	227	2	Texas A&M
69	Tupper, Jeff	DE	6–5	269	2	Oklahoma
20	Waters, Andre	SS	5–11	185	4	Cheyney
92	White, Reggie	DE-DT	6–5	285	3	Tennessee
22	Wilson, Brenard	S	6–0	185	9	Vanderbilt
43	Young, Roynell	CB	6–1	185	8	Alcorn St.

1986 Data

Record: 5–10–1, 4th NFC East
Head Coach: Buddy Ryan (NFL Record: 5–10–1)
Total Offense: 283.9 yds. per game
Total Defense: 326.5 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 16.0 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 19.5 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Ed Wisneski, Director of Communications

1986 Leaders

Passing: Ron Jaworski, 128–245–6–1405, 8 TDs.; Randall Cunningham, 111–209–7–1391, 8 TDs.
Rushing: Keith Byars, 577 yds., 1 TD.
Receiving (yds.): Mike Quick, 60 ct., 939 yds., 9 TDs.
Kicking: Paul McFadden, 26–27 PATs, 20–31 FGs, 86 points.
Punting: John Teltschik, 108 punts, 41.6 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Junior Tautalatasi, 18 ret., 19.1 avg.
Punt Returns: Gregg Garrity, 17 ret., 11.0 avg.
Tackles: Mike Reichenbach, 126, 90 solo.
Sacks: Reggie White, 18.
Interceptions: Andre Waters and Roynell Young, 6.

1986 Results

14	at Washington	41
10	at Chicago (OT)	13
7	Denver	33
34	Los Angeles Rams	20
16	at Atlanta	0
3	at New York Giants	35
14	Dallas	17
23	San Diego	7
10	at St. Louis	13
14	New York Giants	17
11	Detroit	13
20	at Seattle	24
33	at L. A. Raiders (OT)	27
10	St. Louis (OT)	10
23	at Dallas	21
14	Washington	21

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
34	Abercrombie, Walter	RB	6–0	210	6	Baylor
1	Anderson, Gary	K	5–11	170	6	Syracuse
66	Behning, Mark	T	6–6	290	2	Nebraska
6	Brister, Bubby	QB	6–2	184	2	N.E. La. U.
88	Britt, Jessie	WR	6–4	198	2	N.C. A&T
91	Carr, Gregg	LB	6–1	220	3	Auburn
33	Clayton, Harvey	CB	5–9	180	5	Fla. St.
56	Cole, Robin	LB	6–2	225	11	New Mex.
67	Dunn, Gary	NT	6–3	275	11	Miami(Fl.)
42	Edwards, Dave	SS	6–0	195	3	Illinois
24	Erenberg, Rich	RB	5–10	205	4	Colgate
92	Gary, Keith	DE	6–3	265	5	Oklahoma
86	Gothard, Preston	TE	6–4	240	3	Alabama
96	Henton, Anthony	LB	6–1	218	2	Troy. St.
53	Hinkle, Bryan	LB	6–2	220	6	Oregon
36	Hughes, David	RB	6–0	220	7	Boise St.
62	Ilkin, Tunch	T	6–3	265	8	Ind. St.
43	Jackson, Earnest	RB	5–9	202	5	Texas A&M
50	Little, David	LB	6–1	238	7	Florida
83	Lipps, Louis	WR-KR	5–10	185	4	So. Miss.
74	Long, Terry	G	5–11	265	4	E. Car.
16	Malone, Mark	QB	6–4	220	8	Ariz. St.
57	Merriweather, Mike	LB	6–2	215	6	Pacific
64	Nelson, Edmund	DE-DT	6–3	277	6	Auburn
18	Newsome, Harry	P	6–0	186	3	Wk. Forest
65	Pinney, Ray	T	6–4	265	9	Wash.
30	Pollard, Frank	RB	5–10	223	8	Baylor
60	Rasmussen, Randy	C-G	6–1	254	4	Minnesota
40	Reeder, Dan	RB	5–11	235	2	Delaware
79	Rienstra, John	G	6–4	273	2	Temple
63	Rostosky, Pete	T	6–4	270	4	Conn.
28	Sanchez, Lupe	CB-KR	5–10	192	2	UCLA
45	Sanders, Chuck	RB	6–1	233	2	Slippery Rk.
80	Seitz, Warren	TE	6–4	223	2	Missouri
41	Sheffield, Chris	CB	6–1	185	2	Albany St.
31	Shell, Donnie	SS	5–11	198	14	S.C. State
99	Sims, Darryl	DE-DT	6–3	275	3	Wisconsin
82	Stallworth, John	WR	6–2	202	14	Ala. A&M
90	Station, Larry	LB	5–11	227	2	Iowa
26	Swain, John	CB	6–1	192	7	Miami(Fl.)
85	Sweeney, Calvin	WR	6–2	192	8	USC
87	Thompson, Weegie	WR	6–6	210	4	Fla. St.
52	Webster, Mike	C	6–1	260	14	Wisconsin
21	Williams, Eric	FS	6–1	190	5	N.C. State
98	Williams, Gerald	NT	6–3	270	2	Auburn
93	Willis, Keith	DE	6–1	255	6	N'eastern
55	Winston, Dennis	LB	6–0	224	11	Arkansas
73	Wolfley, Craig	G	6–1	260	8	Syracuse
22	Woods, Rick	DB	6–0	195	6	Boise St.

1986 Data

Record: 6–10–0, 3rd AFC Central
Head Coach: Chuck Noll (NFL Record: 170–114–1)
Total Offense: 300.7 yds. per game
Total Defense: 328.3 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 19.2 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 21.0 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Joe Gordon, Publicity Director

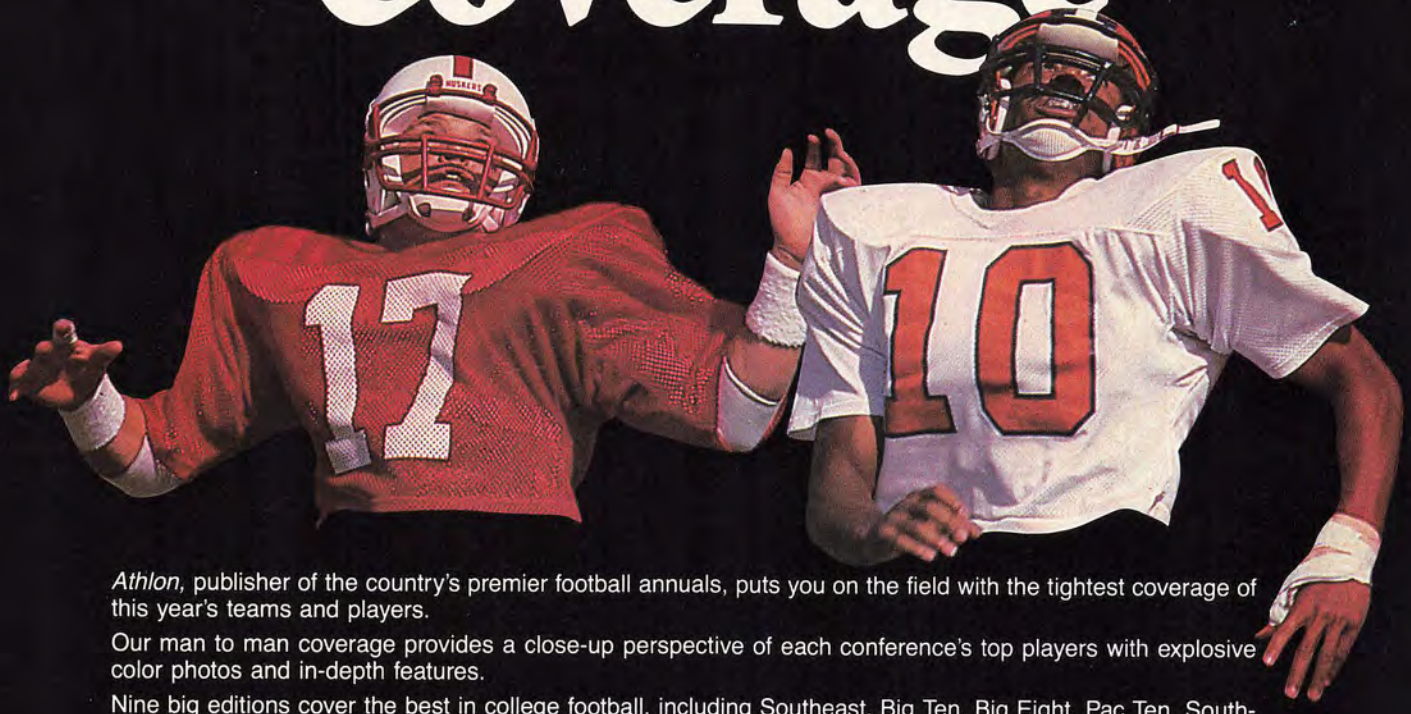
1986 Leaders

Passing: Mark Malone, 216–425–18–2444, 15 TDs.
Rushing: Earnest Jackson, 910 yds., 5 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Louis Lipps, 38 ct., 590 yds., 3 TDs.
Kicking: Gary Anderson, 32–32 PATs, 21–32 FGs, 95 points.
Punting: Harry Newsome, 86 punts, 40.1 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Lupe Sanchez, 25 ret., 23.6 avg.
Punt Returns: Rick Woods, 33 ret., 8.9 avg.
Tackles: Bryan Hinkle, 111, 86 solo.
Sacks: Keith Willis, 12 for 89 yds.
Interceptions: Six players with 3.

1986 Results

0	at Seattle	30
10	Denver	21
7	at Minnesota	31
22	at Houston (OT)	16
24	Cleveland	27
22	at Cincinnati	24
0	New England	34
30	Cincinnati	9
27	Green Bay	3
12	at Buffalo	16
21	Houston	10
31	at Cleveland (OT)	37
10	at Chicago (OT)	13
27	Detroit	17
45	at New York Jets	24
19	Kansas City	24

Man to Man Coverage



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ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
16	Austin, Kent	QB	6-1	195	2	Mississippi
60	Baker, Al	DE	6-6	270	10	Colo. St.
52	Baker, Charlie	OLB	6-2	234	8	New Mex.
55	Bell, Anthony	OLB	6-3	231	2	Mich. St.
74	Bergold, Scott	DE	6-7	263	3	Wisconsin
89	Boso, Cap	TE	6-3	224	2	Illinois
71	Bostic, Joe	G	6-3	268	9	Clemson
62	Brown, Ray	T-G	6-5	257	2	Ark. St.
41	Carter, Carl	CB	5-11	180	2	Texas Tech
14	Cater, Greg	P	6-0	191	6	Tn-Chatt.
58	Chilton, Gene	C	6-3	271	2	Texas
79	Clasby, Bob	DE	6-5	260	2	Notre D.
66	Dawson, Doug	G	6-3	267	4	Texas
56	DiBernardo, Rick	ILB	6-3	225	2	Notre D.
73	Duda, Mark	NT	6-3	279	5	Maryland
31	Ferrell, Earl	FB	6-0	224	6	E. Tenn. St.
65	Galloway, David	NT	6-3	279	6	Florida
81	Green, Roy	WR	6-0	195	9	H'nderson
75	Greer, Curtis	DE	6-4	258	8	Michigan
82	Holmes, Don	WR	5-10	180	2	Mesa(Colo.)
78	Hughes, Van	DE	6-3	280	2	SW Tex. St.
87	Johnson, Troy	WR	6-1	175	2	Southern
54	Junior, E.J.	ILB	6-3	235	7	Alabama
70	Kennard, Derek	G	6-3	285	2	Nev.-Reno
10	Lee, John	K	5-11	182	2	UCLA
15	Lomax, Neil	QB	6-3	215	7	Portland
47	Mack, Cedric	CB	6-0	194	5	Baylor
80	Marsh, Doug	TE	6-3	238	8	Michigan
76	Mays, Stafford	DE	6-2	255	8	Wash.
30	Mitchell, Stump	HB	5-9	188	7	Citadel
59	Monaco, Ron	LB	6-1	225	2	S.C.
57	Noga, Niko	ILB	6-1	235	4	Hawaii
85	Novacek, Jay	TE	6-4	217	3	Wyoming
53	Nunn, Freddie Joe	OLB	6-4	228	3	Mississippi
63	Robbins, Tootie	T	6-5	302	6	E. Car.
51	Ruether, Mike	C	6-4	275	2	Texas
39	Sargent, Broderick	FB	5-10	215	2	Baylor
67	Sharpe, Luis	T	6-4	260	6	UCLA
36	Sikahema, Vai	HB-KR	5-9	191	2	BYU
84	Smith, J.T.	WR	6-2	185	10	N. Tex. St.
61	Smith, Lance	T	6-2	262	3	LSU
45	Smith, Leonard	SS	5-11	202	5	McN'se St.
44	Smith, Wayne	CB	6-0	170	8	Purdue
18	Stoudt, Cliff	QB	6-4	215	9	Y'town St.
86	Swanson, Eric	WR	5-11	186	2	Tennessee
83	Tilley, Pat	WR	5-10	178	12	La. Tech
24	Wolfley, Ron	FB	6-0	222	3	W.Va.
43	Young, Lonnie	FS	6-1	182	3	Mich. St.

1986 Data

Record: 4-11-1, 5th NFC East
Head Coach: Gene Stallings (NFL Record: 4-11-1)
Total Offense: 281.4 yds. per game
Total Defense: 304.0 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 13.6 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 21.9 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Greg Gladysiewski, Media Coordinator

1986 Leaders

Passing: Neil Lomax, 240-421-12-2583, 13 TDs.
Rushing: Stump Mitchell, 800 yds., 5 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): J. T. Smith, 80 ct., 1014 yds., 6 TDs.
Kicking: John Lee, 14-17 PATs, 8-13 FGs, 38 points.
Punting: Greg Cater, 61 punts, 37.2 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Vai Sikahema, 37 ret., 22.9 avg.
Punt Returns: Vai Sikahema, 43 ret., 12.1 avg., 2 TDs.
Tackles: Leonard Smith, 119, 102 solo.
Sacks: Al Baker, 10 for 84 yds.
Interceptions: Cedric Mack, 4.

1986 Results

10	Los Angeles Rams	16
13	at Atlanta	33
10	at Buffalo	17
7	Dallas	31
6	New York Giants	13
30	at Tampa Bay	19
21	at Washington	28
7	at Dallas	38
13	Philadelphia	10
17	at San Francisco	43
7	New Orleans	16
23	Kansas City	14
17	Washington	20
10	at Philadelphia (OT)	10
7	at New York Giants	27
21	Tampa Bay	17

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
42	Adams, Curtis	RB	5-11	194	2	C. Mich.
56	Allert, Ty	ILB	6-2	233	2	Texas
40	Anderson, Gary	RB-WR	6-0	180	3	Arkansas
	Banks, Chip	LB	6-4	233	6	USC
6	Benirschke, Rolf	K	6-1	180	10	Cal-Davis
57	Benson, Thomas	ILB	6-2	235	4	Oklahoma
22	Byrd, Gill	DB	5-11	194	5	S. Jose St.
89	Chandler, Wes	WR	6-0	188	10	Florida
77	Claphan, Sam	T	6-6	288	7	Oklahoma
37	Dale, Jeffery	SS	6-3	213	3	LSU
61	Dallafior, Ken	G	6-4	277	3	Minnesota
20	Davis, Wayne	CB	5-11	175	3	Ind. St.
75	DiGiacomo, Curt	G	6-4	275	2	Arizona
78	Ehin, Chuck	NT	6-4	257	5	BYU
70	FitzPatrick, James	T	6-7	302	2	USC
12	Flick, Tom	QB	6-3	191	4	Wash.
14	Fouts, Dan	QB	6-3	204	15	Oregon
25	Glenn, Vencie	FS	6-0	183	2	Ind. St.
92	Hardison, Dee	DE	6-4	274	10	N.C.
59	Hawkins, Andy	OLB	6-2	230	6	Texas A&I
9	Herrmann, Mark	QB	6-4	199	7	Purdue
88	Holohan, Pete	TE	6-4	232	7	Notre D.
27	Hunter, Daniel	CB	5-11	180	3	H'nderson
26	James, Lionel	RB-WR	5-6	170	4	Auburn
83	Johnson, Trumaine	WR	6-1	191	3	Grambling
68	Kowalski, Gary	G-T	6-6	280	4	Bost. Coll.
74	Lachey, Jim	T	6-6	284	3	Ohio St.
63	Leonard, Jim	C-G	6-3	270	7	Santa Clara
51	Lowe, Woodrow	OLB	6-0	229	12	Alabama
62	Macek, Don	C	6-2	270	12	Bost. Coll.
21	McGee, Buford	RB	6-0	206	4	Mississippi
60	McKnight, Dennis	C-G	6-3	270	6	Drake
2	Mojsiejenko, Ralf	P	6-2	210	3	Mich. St.
90	Moore, Mack	DE	6-4	258	3	Texas A&M
55	Nelson, Derrie	ILB	6-2	239	5	Nebraska
91	O'Neal, Leslie	DE	6-4	255	2	Okla. St.
50	Plummer, Gary	ILB	6-2	230	2	California
85	Sievers, Eric	TE	6-4	235	7	Maryland
97	Simmons, Tony	DE	6-4	268	3	Tennessee
54	Smith, Billy Ray	OLB	6-3	236	5	Arkansas
	Smith, Tim	WR	6-2	206	8	Nebraska
43	Spencer, Tim	FB	6-1	227	3	Ohio St.
33	Sullivan, John L.	DB	6-1	190	2	California
24	Taylor, Ken	CB	6-1	186	3	Oregon St.
98	Unrein, Terry	NT	6-5	283	2	Colo. St.
72	Walker, Jeff	G	6-4	295	2	Mem. St.
23	Walters, Danny	CB	6-1	200	5	Arkansas
99	Williams, Lee	DE	6-5	263	4	Beth-Cook
93	Wilson, Earl	DE	6-4	280	3	Kentucky
80	Winslow, Kellen	TE	6-5	250	9	Missouri
96	Winter, Blaise	DE	6-3	274	3	Syracuse
30	Wyatt, Kevin	CB	5-10	190	2	Arkansas

1986 Data

Record: 4-12-0, 5th AFC West
Head Coach: Al Saunders (NFL Record: 3-5-0)
Total Offense: 334.8 yds. per game
Total Defense: 335.1 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 20.9 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 24.8 ptpg.

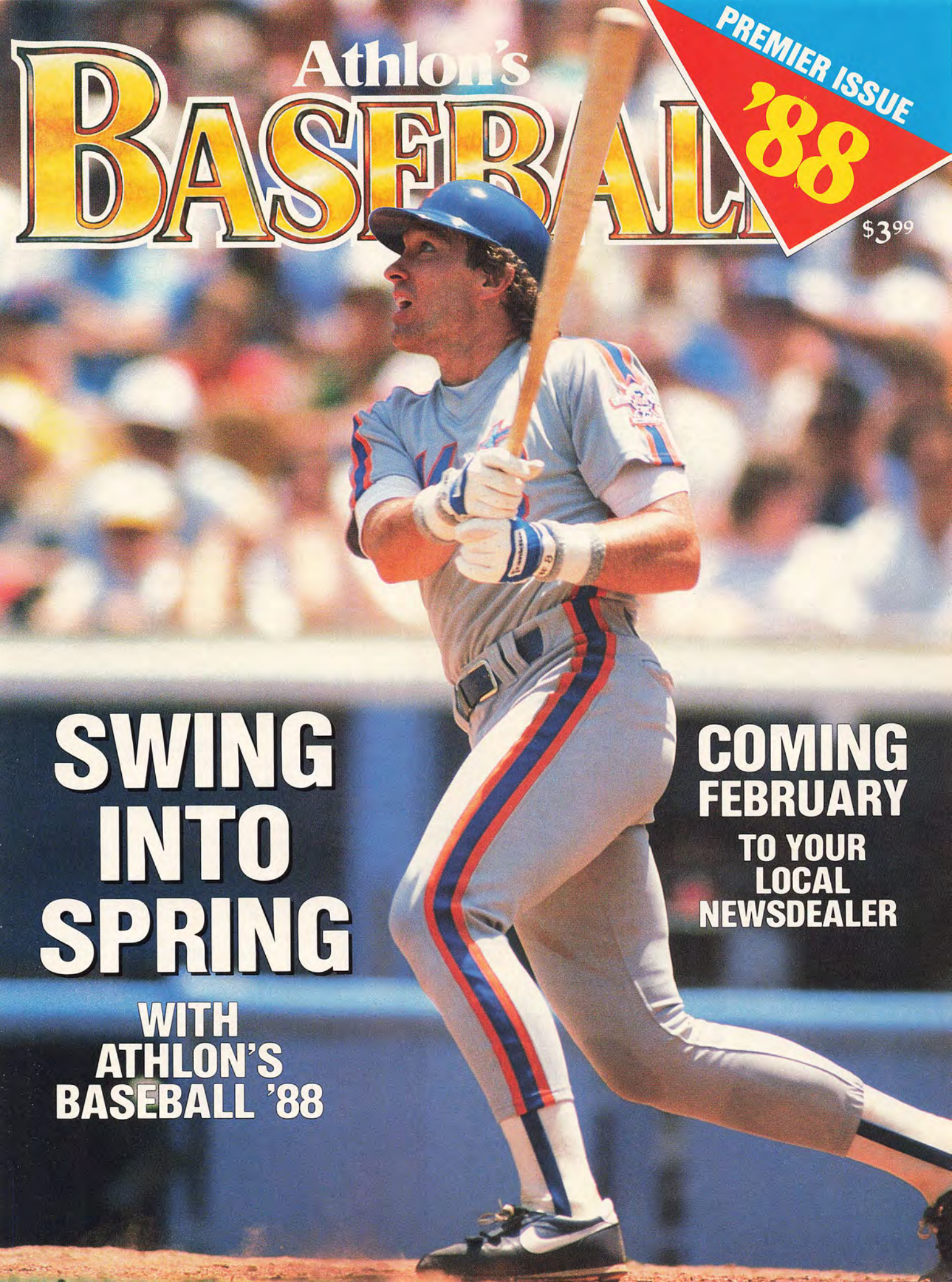
Information provided by the office of Rick Smith, Director of Public Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: Dan Fouts, 252-430-22-3031, 16 TDs.
Rushing: Gary Anderson, 442 yds., 1 TD.
Receiving (yds.): Wes Chandler, 56 ct., 874 yds., 4 TDs. Gary Anderson, 80 ct., 871 yds., 8 TDs.
Kicking: Rolf Benirschke, 39-41 PATs, 16-25 FGs, 87 points.
Punting: Ralf Mojsiejenko, 72 punts, 42.0 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Gary Anderson, 24 ret., 20.1 avg.
Punt Returns: Gary Anderson, 25 ret., 9.1 avg.
Tackles: Billy Ray Smith, 110, 83 solo.
Sacks: Lee Williams, 15 for 103 yds.
Interceptions: Gill Byrd, 5 for 45 yds.

1986 Results

50	Miami	28
7	at New York Giants	20
27	Washington	30
13	at Los Angeles Raiders	17
7	at Seattle	33
14	Denver	31
41	at Kansas City	42
7	at Philadelphia	23
23	Kansas City	24
9	at Denver	3
21	Dallas	24
31	Los Angeles Raiders (OT)	37
17	at Indianapolis	3
27	Houston	0
24	Seattle	34
17	at Cleveland	47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SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
68	Ayers, John	G	6-5	265	11	W. Tex. St.
76	Board, Dwaine	DE	6-5	248	8	N.C. A&T
59	Browner, Keith	LB	6-6	245	4	USC
95	Carter, Michael	NT	6-2	285	4	SMU
87	Clark, Dwight	WR	6-4	215	9	Clemson
69	Collie, Bruce	T-G	6-6	275	3	Texas-Arl.
57	Cousineau, Tom	LB	6-3	225	6	Ohio St.
33	Craig, Roger	FB	6-0	224	5	Nebraska
83	Crawford, Derrick	WR-KR	5-10	185	2	Mem. St.
28	Cribbs, Joe	RB	5-11	193	7	Auburn
51	Cross, Randy	G	6-3	265	12	UCLA
64	Durrette, Michael	G	6-4	280	2	W. Va.
50	Ellison, Riki	LB	6-2	225	5	USC
55	Fahnhorst, Jim	LB	6-4	230	4	Minnesota
71	Fahnhorst, Keith	T	6-6	273	14	Minnesota
54	Ferrari, Ron	LB	6-0	215	6	Illinois
81	Francis, Russ	TE	6-6	242	12	Oregon
86	Frank, John	TE	6-3	225	4	Ohio St.
49	Fuller, Jeff	S-LB	6-2	216	4	Texas A&M
29	Griffin, Don	CB	6-0	176	2	Mid-Tenn.
94	Haley, Charles	DE	6-5	230	2	J. Madison
24	Harmon, Derrick	RB	5-10	202	4	Cornell
75	Harty, John	DE	6-4	260	7	Iowa
46	Holmoe, Tom	S	6-2	195	4	BYU
9	Kemp, Jeff	QB	6-0	201	7	Dartmouth
67	Kugler, Pete	NT-DE	6-4	255	5	Penn. St.
42	Lott, Ronnie	S	6-0	200	7	USC
84	Margerum, Ken	WR	6-0	180	6	Stanford
53	McColl, Milt	LB	6-6	230	7	Stanford
62	McIntyre, Guy	G	6-3	264	4	Georgia
22	McKyer, Tim	CB	6-0	174	2	Texas-Arl.
32	Monroe, Carl	RB-KR	5-8	180	5	Utah
16	Montana, Joe	QB	6-2	195	9	Notre D.
20	Nixon, Tory	CB	5-11	186	3	S. Diego St.
77	Paris, William	T	6-6	299	5	Michigan
56	Quillan, Fred	C	6-5	266	10	Oregon
44	Rathman, Tom	FB	6-1	232	2	Nebraska
80	Rice, Jerry	WR	6-2	200	3	Miss. V. St.
30	Ring, Bill	FB	5-10	205	7	BYU
91	Roberts, Larry	DE	6-3	264	2	Alabama
65	Rogers, Doug	DE	6-5	280	5	Stanford
4	Runager, Max	P	6-1	189	9	S.C.
72	Stover, Jeff	DE	6-5	275	6	Oregon
78	Tuiasosopo, Manu	NT	6-3	262	9	UCLA
58	Turner, Keena	LB	6-2	222	8	Purdue
74	Wallace, Steve	T	6-5	276	2	Auburn
99	Walter, Michael	LB	6-3	238	5	Oregon
14	Wersching, Ray	K	5-11	215	15	California
27	Williamson, Carlton	S	6-0	204	7	Pittsburgh
85	Wilson, Mike	WR	6-3	215	7	Wash. St.
21	Wright, Eric	CB	6-1	185	7	Missouri
	Young, Steve	QB	6-2	200	3	BYU

1986 Data

Record: 10-6-1 (includes playoffs), 1st NFC West
Head Coach: Bill Walsh (NFL Record: 76-54-1)
Total Offense: 380.1 yds. per game
Total Defense: 305.0 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 23.4 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 15.4 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Jerry Walker, Director of Public Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: Joe Montana, 191-307-9-2236, 8 TDs.
Rushing: Roger Craig, 830 yds., 7 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Jerry Rice, 86 ct., 1570 yds., 15 TDs.
Kicking: Ray Wersching, 41-42 PATs, 25-35 FGs, 116 points.
Punting: Max Runager, 83 punts, 41.6 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Derrick Crawford, 15 ret., 18.7 avg.
Punt Returns: Don Griffin, 38 ret., 9.9 avg., 1 TD.
Tackles: Carlton Williamson, 78, 55 solo.
Sacks: Charles Haley, 12 for 109 yds.
Interceptions: Ronnie Lott, 10 for 134 yds., 1 TD.

1986 Results

	31	at Tampa Bay	7
	13	at Los Angeles Rams	16
	26	New Orleans	17
	31	at Miami	16
	35	Indianapolis	14
	24	Minnesota (OT)	27
	10	at Atlanta (OT)	10
	31	at Green Bay	17
	10	at New Orleans	23
	43	St. Louis	17
	6	at Washington	14
	20	Atlanta	0
	17	New York Giants	21
	24	New York Jets	10
	29	at New England	24
	24	Los Angeles Rams	14
Playoffs:	3	at New York Giants	49

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
47	Anderson, Eddie	S	6-1	199	2	Ft. Val. St.
65	Bailey, Edwin	G	6-4	276	7	S.C. State
76	Borchardt, Jon	G	6-5	272	9	M'tana St.
22	Brown, Dave	CB	6-1	197	13	Michigan
77	Bryant, Jeff	DE	6-5	272	6	Clemson
59	Bush, Blair	C	6-3	272	10	Wash.
53	Butler, Keith	LB	6-4	239	10	Mem. St.
83	Butler, Ray	WR	6-3	206	8	USC
87	Davis, Tony	TE	6-5	239	2	Missouri
45	Easley, Kenny	S	6-3	206	7	UCLA
30	Edmonds, Bobby Joe	RB	5-11	186	2	Arkansas
68	Edwards, Randy	DE	6-4	267	4	Alabama
64	Essink, Ron	T	6-6	282	8	Gr. Val. St.
88	Franklin, Byron	WR	6-1	183	5	Auburn
56	Gaines, Greg	LB	6-3	222	6	Tennessee
2	Gamache, Vince	P	5-11	176	2	Cal. St. Ful.
7	Gilbert, Gale	QB	6-3	206	3	California
52	Grant, Will	C	6-3	268	10	Kentucky
69	Graves, Rory	T	6-6	290	2	Ohio St.
79	Green, Jacob	DE	6-3	252	8	Texas A&M
84	Greene, Danny	WR	5-11	190	3	Wash.
85	Hudson, Gordon	TE	6-4	241	2	BYU
23	Hunter, Patrick	CB	5-11	185	2	Nev.-Reno
55	Jackson, Michael	LB	6-1	228	9	Wash.
27	Johnson, Greggory	S	6-1	195	5	Okla. St.
9	Johnson, Norm	K	6-2	198	6	UCLA
26	Justin, Kerry	CB	5-11	175	7	Oregon St.
54	Kaiser, John	LB	6-3	233	4	Arizona
62	Kauahi, Kani	C	6-2	261	6	Hawaii
63	Kinlaw, Reggie	NT	6-2	249	8	Oklahoma
17	Krieg, Dave	QB	6-1	196	8	Milton
37	Lane, Eric	FB	6-0	201	7	BYU
80	Largent, Steve	WR	5-11	191	12	Tulsa
70	Mattes, Ron	T	6-6	306	2	Virginia
51	Merriman, Sam	LB	6-3	232	5	Idaho
71	Millard, Bryan	G	6-5	284	4	Texas
61	Mitz, Alonzo	DE	6-3	275	2	Florida
43	Morris, Randall	RB	6-0	200	4	Tennessee
21	Moyer, Paul	S	6-1	203	5	Ariz. St.
72	Nash, Joe	NT	6-2	257	6	Bost. Coll.
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6-0	186	3	Colgate
58	Scholtz, Bruce	LB	6-6	244	6	Texas
74	Singer, Curt	T	6-5	279	2	Tennessee
82	Skansi, Paul	WR	5-11	183	5	Wash.
20	Taylor, Terry	CB	5-10	191	4	So. Ill.
86	Tice, Mike	TE	6-7	247	7	Maryland
81	Turner, Daryl	WR	6-3	194	4	Mich. St.
89	Walker, Byron	WR	6-4	188	6	Citadel
28	Warner, Curt	RB	5-11	204	4	Penn St.
32	Williams, John L.	FB	5-11	226	2	Florida
75	Wilson, Mike	T	6-5	280	10	Georgia
50	Young, Fredd	LB	6-1	233	4	N. Mex. St.

1986 Data

Record: 10-6-0, 3rd AFC West
Head Coach: Chuck Knox (NFL Record: 137-85-1)
Total Offense: 338.1 yds. per game
Total Defense: 333.8 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 22.9 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 18.3 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of Gary Wright, Director of Public Relations

1986 Leaders

Passing: Dave Krieg, 225-375-11-2921, 21 TDs.
Rushing: Curt Warner, 1481 yds., 13 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Steve Largent, 70 ct., 1070 yds., 9 TDs.
Kicking: Norm Johnson, 42-42 PATs, 22-35 FGs, 108 points.
Punting: Vince Gamache, 79 punts, 38.6 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Bobby Joe Edmonds, 34 ret., 22.5 avg.
Punt Returns: Bobby Joe Edmonds, 34 ret., 12.3 avg., 1 TD.
Tackles: Fredd Young, 121.
Sacks: Jacob Green, 12.
Interceptions: Dave Brown, 5 for 58 yds., 1 TD.

1986 Results

30	Pittsburgh	0
23	Kansas City	17
38	at New England	31
14	at Washington	19
33	San Diego	7
10	at Los Angeles Raiders	14
17	New York Giants	12
13	at Denver	20
7	New York Jets	38
7	at Kansas City	27
7	at Cincinnati	34
24	Philadelphia	20
31	at Dallas	14
37	Los Angeles Raiders	0
34	at San Diego	24
41	Denver	16

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
82	Bell, Jerry	TE	6–5	230	6	Ariz. St.
38	Bligen, Dennis	RB	5–11	215	4	St. John's
34	Boatner, Mack	RB	6–0	220	2	S.E. La.
52	Brantley, Scot	LB	6–1	230	8	Florida
78	Cannon, John	DE	6–5	260	6	Wil & Mary
87	Carter, Gerald	WR	6–1	190	8	Texas A&M
23	Castille, Jeremiah	DB	5–10	175	5	Alabama
31	Curry, Craig	DB	6–0	190	4	Texas
58	Davis, Jeff	LB	6–0	230	6	Clemson
17	DeBerg, Steve	QB	6–3	210	11	S. Jose St.
85	Dunn, K.D.	TE	6–3	235	3	Clemson
26	Easmon, Ricky	DB	5–10	160	3	Florida
95	Faulkner, Chris	TE	6–4	250	3	Florida
61	Fonoti, David	T	6–4	280	2	Ariz. St.
35	Franklin, Pat	RB	6–1	230	2	SW Tex. St.
81	Freeman, Phil	WR	5–11	185	3	Arizona
36	Futrell, Bobby	DB	5–11	190	2	Eliz. St.
5	Garcia, Frank	P	6–0	210	5	Arizona
83	Gillespie, Willie	WR	5–9	170	2	Tn.-Chatt.
60	Grimes, Randy	C	6–4	270	5	Baylor
84	Harris, Leonard	WR	5–8	155	2	Texas Tech
89	Heflin, Vince	WR	6–0	185	6	C. St. Ok.
73	Heller, Ron	T	6–6	280	4	Penn St.
90	Holmes, Ron	DE	6–4	255	3	Wash.
25	Howard, Bobby	RB	6–0	210	2	Indiana
1	Igwebuike, Donald	K	5–9	185	3	Clemson
22	Jones, Rod	DB	6–0	175	2	SMU
75	Kellin, Kevin	DE	6–6	265	2	Minnesota
	Kemp, Bobby	S	6–0	191	7	Cal. St. Ful.
98	Keys, Tyrone	DE	6–7	270	5	Mississippi
76	Logan, David	NT	6–2	250	9	Pittsburgh
77	Maarleveld, J. D.	T	6–6	300	2	Maryland
86	Magee, Calvin	TE	6–3	240	3	Southern
68	Mallory, Rick	G	6–2	265	3	Wash.
55	McCallister, Fred	LB	6–1	250	2	Florida
21	McKeever, Vito	DB	6–0	180	2	Florida
59	Murphy, Kevin	LB	6–2	230	2	Oklahoma
71	Nelson, Bob	NT	6–3	265	2	Miami(Fl.)
74	Powell, Marvin	T	6–5	270	11	USC
54	Randle, Ervin	LB	6–1	250	3	Baylor
64	Robinson, Greg	T	6–5	285	2	Sacramento
88	Spek, Jeff	TE	6–3	240	2	S Diego St.
41	Swoope, Craig	DB	6–1	200	2	Illinois
72	Taylor, Rob	T	6–6	290	2	N'western
	Turk, Dan	C	6–4	265	2	Wisconsin
56	Walker, Jackie	LB	6–5	245	2	Jackson St.
37	Walker, Kevin	DB	5–11	180	2	E. Car.
51	Washington, Chris	LB	6–4	230	4	Iowa St.
32	Wilder, James	RB	6–3	225	7	Missouri
80	Williams, David	WR	6–3	190	2	Illinois
46	Wonsley, Nathan	RB	5–10	190	2	Mississippi
66	Yarno, George	G	6–2	265	8	Wash. St.

1986 Data

Record: 2–14–0, 5th NFC Central
Head Coach: Ray Perkins (NFL Record: 24–35)
Total Offense: 272.6 yds. per game
Total Defense: 395.8 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 14.9 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 29.6 ptpg.

Information provided by the office of John Gerdes, Assistant Director - Media Relations.

1986 Leaders

Passing: Steve Young, 195–363–13–2382, 8 TDs.
Rushing: James Wilder, 704 yds., 2 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Gerald Carter, 42 ct., 640 yds., 2 TDs.
Kicking: Donald Igwebuike, 26–27 PATs, 17–24 FGs, 77 points.
Punting: Frank Garcia, 77 punts, 40.1 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Phil Freeman, 31 ret., 18.8 avg.
Punt Returns: Bobby Futrell, 14 ret., 4.8 avg.
Tackles: Jeff Davis, 136.
Sacks: Keith Browner, 4 for 34 yds.
Interceptions: Vito McKeever, 3 for 12 yds.

1986 Results

7	San Francisco	31
10	Minnesota	23
24	at Detroit	20
20	Atlanta (OT)	23
20	at Los Angeles Rams (OT)	26
19	St. Louis	30
7	at New Orleans	38
20	at Kansas City	27
34	Buffalo	28
3	Chicago	23
7	at Green Bay	31
17	Detroit	38
13	at Minnesota	45
14	at Chicago	48
7	Green Bay	21
17	at St. Louis	21

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Coll.
4	Atkinson, Jess	K	5–9	168	3	Maryland
26	Badanjek, Rick	RB	5–8	217	2	Maryland
53	Bostic, Jeff	C	6–2	260	8	Clemson
23	Bowles, Todd	S	6–2	203	2	Temple
29	Branch, Reggie	RB	5–11	227	3	E. Car.
24	Bryant, Kelvin	RB	6–2	195	2	N.C.
58	Burks, Shawn	LB	6–1	230	2	LSU
65	Butz, Dave	DT	6–7	295	15	Purdue
84	Clark, Gary	WR	5–9	173	3	J. Madison
48	Coffey, Ken	S	6–0	198	4	SW Tex. St.
51	Coleman, Monte	LB	6–2	230	9	C. Ark.
12	Cox, Steve	P	6–4	195	7	Arkansas
56	Daniels, Calvin	LB	6–3	241	6	N.C.
32	Dean, Vernon	CB	5–11	178	6	S. Diego St.
86	Didier, Clint	TE	6–5	240	6	Portland
30	Garner, Dwight	RB	5–8	183	2	California
77	Grant, Darryl	DT	6–1	275	7	Rice
28	Green, Darrell	CB	5–8	170	5	Texas A&I
35	Griffin, Keith	RB	5–8	185	4	Miami(Fl.)
68	Grimm, Russ	G	6–3	275	7	Pittsburgh
78	Hamel, Dean	DT	6–3	275	3	Tulsa
64	Hamilton, Steve	DE-DT	6–4	255	3	E. Car.
88	Holloway, Derek	WR	5–7	166	2	Arkansas
66	Jacoby, Joe	T	6–7	305	7	Louisville
31	Jenkins, Ken	KR	5–8	185	6	Bucknell
82	Jones, Anthony	TE	6–3	248	4	Wichita St.
22	Jordan, Curtis	FS	6–2	205	11	Texas Tech
55	Kaufman, Mel	LB	6–2	218	7	Cal. Poly
74	Koch, Markus	DE	6–5	275	2	Boise St.
54	Krakoski, Joe	LB	6–1	224	2	Wash.
72	Manley, Dexter	DE	6–3	257	7	Okla. St.
71	Mann, Charles	DE	6–6	270	5	Nev.-Reno
73	May, Mark	T	6–6	295	7	Pittsburgh
63	McKenzie, Raleigh	G	6–2	262	3	Tennessee
60	McQuaid, Dan	T	6–7	278	3	Nev.-L.V.
57	Milot, Rich	LB	6–4	237	9	Penn St.
81	Monk, Art	WR	6–3	209	8	Syracuse
41	Morrison, Tim	CB	6–1	195	2	N.C.
52	Olkewicz, Neal	LB	6–0	233	9	Maryland
87	Orr, Terry	TE	6–3	227	2	Texas
38	Rogers, George	RB	6–2	229	7	S.C.
46	Sanders, Ricky	RB	5–11	180	2	SW Tex. St.
10	Schroeder, Jay	QB	6–4	215	4	UCLA
69	Thielemann, R.C.	G	6–4	262	11	Arkansas
76	Tilton, Ron	G	6–4	250	2	Tulane
89	Verdin, Clarence	WR-KR	5–8	160	2	SW La. St.
40	Walton, Alvin	S	6–0	180	2	Kansas
85	Warren, Don	TE	6–4	242	9	S. Diego St.
45	Wilburn, Barry	CB	6–3	186	3	Mississippi
17	Williams, Doug	QB	6–4	220	7	Grambling
80	Yarber, Eric	WR-KR	5–8	156	2	Idaho
14	Zendejas, Max	K	5–11	184	2	Arizona

1986 Data

Record: 14–5–0 (includes playoffs), 2nd NFC East
Head Coach: Joe Gibbs (NFL Record: 71–29)
Total Offense: 350.1 yds. per game
Total Defense: 331.1 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 23.0 ptpg.
Scoring Defense: 18.5 ptpg.

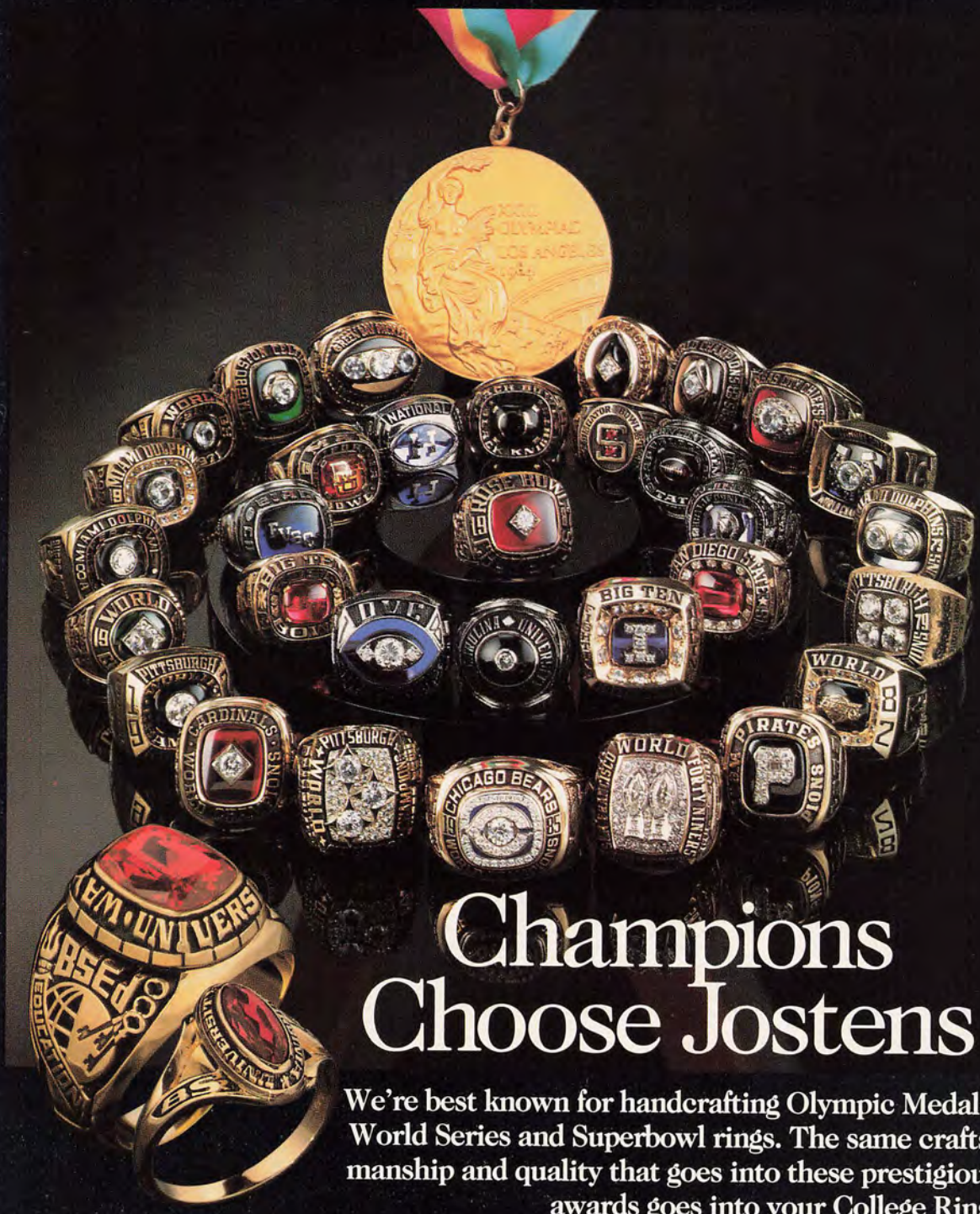
Information provided by Washington Redskins Public Relations Office

1986 Leaders

Passing: Jay Schroeder, 276–541–22–4109, 22 TDs.
Rushing: George Rogers, 1203 yds., 18 TDs.
Receiving (yds.): Gary Clark, 74 ct., 1265 yds., 7 TDs.
Kicking: Max Zendejas, 23–28 PATs, 9–14 FGs, 50 points.
Punting: Steve Cox, 75 punts, 43.6 avg.
Kickoff Returns: Ken Jenkins, 27 ret., 20.5 avg.
Punt Returns: Ken Jenkins, 28 ret., 9.6 avg.
Tackles: Neal Olkewicz, 183, 98 solo.
Sacks: Dexter Manley, 18.
Interceptions: Darrell Green, 5 for 9 yds.

1986 Results

	41	Philadelphia	14
	10	Los Angeles Raiders	6
	30	at San Diego	27
	19	Seattle	14
	14	at New Orleans	6
	6	at Dallas	30
	28	St. Louis	21
	20	at New York Giants	27
	44	Minnesota (OT)	38
	16	at Green Bay	7
	14	San Francisco	6
	41	Dallas	14
	20	at St. Louis	17
	14	New York Giants	24
	30	at Denver	31
	21	at Philadelphia	14
Playoffs:	19	Los Angeles Rams	7
	27	at Chicago	13
	0	at New York Giants	17



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Hurricane Sweep with Vinny

by John Owen

They said it was just a draft but if so, it was a powerful one. Hurricane warnings were posted from the Gulf of Mexico to Philadelphia. And storm watchers around Tampa Bay proclaimed that it was about time something good was blown in their direction.

Vinny Testaverde was just one of three Miami football graduates selected in the first round (Nos. 1, 3 and 9) of the 1987 collegiate draft. Five of the first 50 athletes chosen were Hurricanes.

Testaverde is expected to direct a reclamation project on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who salvaged only two victories in the 1986 NFL campaign.

The Heisman Trophy winner arrived at draft headquarters after a full night's sleep. He had come to terms with the Bucs almost a month before the draft, signing a six-year, $8.2 million contract.

Three other quarterbacks, six running backs and six defensive linemen were chosen in the opening round. The compliment which the talent scouts paid to the Hurricanes was unmatched since 1977, when three Southern California players were selected in the first five picks.

And the four quarterbacks selected seemed to distinguish this as a vintage year for passers, although it perhaps did not quite represent the same talent quotient as 1983 when John Elway, Jim Kelly, Tony Eason, Todd Blackledge, Ken O'Brien and Dan Marino were chosen in the opening round. All of the '83 grads, with the exception of Blackledge, are currently listed as starters for their NFL teams.

NFC EAST

Dallas—Age may indeed have caught up with the Cowboys. But the boss of the Dallas bunkhouse, Gil Brandt, is proud of two young hands he obtained in the draft. Nebraska nose guard Danny Noonan, targeted to eventually replace 13-year veteran tackle John Dutton, admits his strong suit is not finesse. "I'd just as soon run through 'em as around 'em," he says.

Baylor cornerback Ron Francis, who intercepted three passes in last year's Texas game, also could make an immediate impact upon the Dallas defense in Brandt's estimation.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Danny Noonan, dt, Nebraska	1	12	12
Ron Francis, db, Baylor	2	11	39
Jeff Zimmerman, og, Florida	3	12	68
Kelvin Martin, wr, Boston College	4	11	95
Everett Gay, wr, Texas	5	12	124
Joseph Onosai, og, Hawaii	6	11	151
Kevin Sweeney, qb, Fresno State	7	12	180
Kevin Gogan, ot, Washington	8	11	206
Alvin Blount, rb, Maryland	9	12	235
Dale Jones, lb, Tennessee	10	11	262
Jeff Ward, k, Texas	11	12	291
Scott Armstrong, lb, Florida	12	11	318

New York Giants—The Super Bowl champs didn't have a lot of weaknesses in 1986, but wide receiver might have been an area of questionable depth. So with the last pick in the first round the Giants nabbed Mark Ingram of Michigan State. The Giants describe him as a game-breaker. Ingram describes himself as reckless.

With Terry Kinard coming off knee surgery and Kenny Hill recovering from ankle ailments, the Giants filled another possible need by acquiring Florida defensive back Adrian White, a dynamic hitter. They had thought he might be long gone before their 55th pick was called in the second round.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Mark Ingram, wr, Michigan State	1	28	28
Adrian White, db, Florida	2	27	55
Trade from Denver			
Stephen Baker, wr, Fresno State	3	28	83
Odessa Turner, wr, NW La. St.	4	28	112
Paul O'Connor, og, Miami (Fla.)	5	28	140
Tim Richardson, rb, Pacific	6	20	160
Trade from Los Angeles Rams			
Doug Riesenberg, ot, California	6	28	168
Rod Jones, te, Washington	8	28	223
Stan Parker, og, Nebraska	9	2	225
Trade from Indianapolis			
Dana Wright, rb, Findlay	9	28	251
Chuck Faucette, lb, Maryland	10	28	279
Dave Walter, qb, Michigan Tech	11	28	307
Bill Berthusen, dt, Iowa State	12	14	321
Trade from Los Angeles Raiders			
Chad Stark, fb, North Dakota State	12	22	329
Trade from San Francisco thru L.A. Raiders			

Philadelphia—The moment Miami's Jerome Brown was selected by the Eagles, Coach Buddy Ryan nominated the 300-pounder for the defensive right tackle position.

"I'm not worried about his image," Ryan says in reference to Brown's somewhat stormy career at Miami. "The thing that impresses me is his sacks. He'll wear a coat and tie on the trips like everybody else." Rival quarterbacks should be impressed but other observers have criticized Brown's work habits. "On game day, I show up," the Miami graduate quips.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Jerome Brown, dt, Miami (Fla.)	1	9	9
Ben Tamburello, oc, Auburn	3	9	65
Byron Evans, lb, Arizona	4	9	93
David Alexander, og, Tulsa	5	9	121
Ronnie Moten, lb, Florida	6	9	149
Chris Pike, dt, Tulsa	6	18	158
Trade from Seattle			
Brian Williams, ot, Central Michigan	7	9	177
Ken Lambiotte, qb, William & Mary	9	9	232
Paul Carberry, dt, Oregon State	10	9	260
Bobby Morse, fb, Michigan State	12	9	316

St. Louis—The Cardinals didn't try to disguise the fact they are seeking a replacement for Neil Lomax. But they were accused of exhibiting a boarding house reach for Colorado State quarterback Kelly Stouffer, who was not considered enough of a talent to warrant the sixth selection in the draft's opening round.

"I think Stouffer has a chance to play right away," disagrees Cardinals personnel director George Boone, who compares the Cardinal rookie to Miami's Dan Marino. The 6-3 Stouffer threw an average of 34 passes a game last season for the Rams and completed 54.8 percent. The Cards obtained Southern Cal All-America safety Tim McDonald in the second round.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Kelly Stouffer, qb, Colorado State	1	6	6
Tim McDonald, db, Southern Cal	2	6	34
Robert Awalt, te, San Diego State	3	6	62
Colin Scotts, dt, Hawaii	3	14	70
Trade from Miami			
Rod Saddler, de, Texas A&M	4	6	90
George Swarn, rb, Miami (Ohio)	5	6	118
John Bruno, p, Penn State	5	14	126
Trade from Miami			
Ilia Jarostchuk, lb, New Hampshire	5	15	127
Trade from Los Angeles Raiders			
Mark Garalczyk, dt, West. Michigan	6	6	146
Tim Peoples, db, Washington	7	6	174
William Harris, te, Bishop	7	28	195
Trade from New York Giants			
Steve Alvord, dt, Washington	8	6	201
Wayne Davis, lb, Alabama	9	6	229
Charles Wright, db, Tulsa	10	6	257
Todd Peat, og, Northern Illinois	11	6	285

Washington—Previous trades deprived the Redskins of a first-round pick for the 15th time in 19 seasons. But Coach Joe Gibbs says they still obtained "a real fast guy and a real big guy."

The speedster is cornerback Brian Davis of Nebraska, who runs the 40 in 4.49. The giant is Wally Kleine, 6-9 and 275 pounds, who led Notre Dame in sacks and tackles for loss last year but will be utilized in the offensive line by Washington. The Skins traded a fifth-round pick to the Raiders to gain a higher position in the second round, a move they deemed necessary to obtain Kleine.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Brian Davis, db, Nebraska	2	2	30
Trade from Indianapolis			
Wally Kleine, ot, Notre Dame	2	20	48
Trade from New York Jets thru L.A. Raiders			
Timmy Smith, rb, Texas Tech	5	5	117
Trade from Buffalo			
Steve Gage, qb, Tulsa	6	4	144
Trade from Buffalo			
Ed Simmons, ot, East. Washington	6	24	164
Johnny Thomas, db, Baylor	7	25	192
Clarence Vaughn, db, N. Illinois	8	24	219
Alfred Jenkins, te, Arizona	9	25	248
Ted Wilson, wr, Central Florida	10	24	274
Larone Brown, wr, Texas	11	25	304
Ray Hitchcock, oc, Minnesota	12	24	331

NFC CENTRAL

Chicago—The Bears, who entered the draft with four quarterbacks, surprised the experts by grabbing a fifth in the opening round. Their choice was Jim Harbaugh, a 6-3, 207-pounder from Michigan. "We might have to schedule five-hour practices to get all the throwing in, but I'm satisfied with the pick," says Coach Mike Ditka. Uncertainty about Jim McMahon's physical rehabilitation seemed to have dictated the choice.

Harbaugh led the nation in passing efficiency as a junior. Last year he completed 167 of 254 passes for 2,557 yards and 10 touchdowns with a completion ratio of 65.8, second best in the country.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Jim Harbaugh, qb, Michigan	1	26	26
Ron Morris, wr, SMU	2	26	54
Sean Smith, de, Grambling	4	17	101
Trade from Los Angeles Rams			
Steve Bryan, de, Oklahoma	5	8	120
Trade from Houston thru Wash. and L.A. Raiders			
Will Johnson, de, N.E. Louisiana	5	26	138
John Adickes, oc, Baylor	6	14	154
Trade from Los Angeles Raiders			
Archie Harris, ot, William & Mary	7	26	193
Paul Migliazzo, lb, Oklahoma	8	26	221
Lakei Heimuli, rb, BYU	9	26	249
Dick Chapura, dt, Missouri	10	26	277
Tim Jessie, rb, Auburn	11	26	305
Eric Jeffries, db, Texas	12	26	333

(continued)

(Draft continued)

Detroit—"To win in the NFL, you win upfront," Lions defensive coordinator Wayne Fontes argues. And he indicates that Detroit will rebuild its D-line around Washington Husky defensive end Reggie Rogers, seventh pick overall in the draft. Rogers will be tried on the left side of the line, Keith Ferguson will switch to right end, and William Gay has been written into the roster as a backup.

Rogers, brother of the late Cleveland Browns safety Don Rogers, originally enrolled at Washington as a power forward on the basketball team. He switched sports and became a standout linebacker at Washington before finally finding his niche as a pass-rushing lineman.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Reggie Rogers, de, Washington	1	7	7
Jerry Ball, dt, SMU	3	7	63
Garland Rivers, db, Michigan	4	8	92
Danny Lockett, lb, Arizona	6	8	148
Dan Saleaumua, dt, Arizona State	7	7	175
Dennis Gibson, lb, Iowa State	8	8	203
Rick Calhoun, rb, Cal St. (Fullerton)	9	7	230
Raynard Brown, wr, South Carolina	10	8	259
Brian Siverling, te, Penn State	11	7	286
Gary Lee, wr, Georgia Tech	12	8	315

Green Bay—Brent Fullwood, once known only as a chorus-member in an Auburn football opera that starred Bo Jackson, moved to center stage on draft day. The Packers had not intended to draft a running back but described Fullwood as too great a talent to ignore.

"It was hard to play behind Lionel James and Bo Jackson," Fullwood admits. "You had to bite the bullet and keep your mouth shut." But in his senior season, the 5-11, 210-pound tailback rushed for 1,391 yards, and his 8.3-yard average, best in the nation, set a school record.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Brent Fullwood, rb, Auburn	1	4	4
Johnny Holland, lb, Texas A&M	2	13	41
Trade from Atlanta			
Dave Croston, ot, Iowa	3	5	61
Scott Stephen, lb, Arizona State	3	13	69
Trade from Atlanta			
Frankie Neal, wr, Fort Hays State	3	15	71
Trade from Los Angeles Raiders			
Lorenzo Freeman, dt, Pittsburgh	4	4	89
Willie Marshall, wr, Temple	6	5	145
Tony Leiker, dt, Stanford	7	4	172
Bill Smith, p, Mississippi	7	24	191
Trade from Cleveland			
Jeff Drost, dt, Iowa	8	3	198
Gregg Harris, og, Wake Forest	9	5	228
Don Majkowski, qb, Virginia	10	4	255
Patrick Scott, wr, Grambling	11	3	282
Norman Jefferson, db, LSU	12	28	335
Trade from New York Giants			

Minnesota—The Vikings moved up two positions in the first round via a swap with Miami to obtain D.J. Dozier, who helped lead Penn State to the 1986 national championship.

Dozier, who doubles as a pass catcher with 4.4 speed, rushed 171 times for 811 yards as a Penn State senior and capped a 99-yard day by scoring the winning touchdown in the Sunkist Fiesta Bowl over Miami. Linebacker Ray Berry, who led Baylor in tackles for three straight years, was the Vikings' second-round choice.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
D.J. Dozier, rb, Penn State	1	14	14
Trade from Miami			
Ray Berry, lb, Baylor	2	16	44
Henry Thomas, nt, LSU	3	16	72
Reggie Rutland, db, Georgia Tech	4	16	100
Greg Richardson, wr, Alabama	6	16	156
Rick Fenney, fb, Washington	8	16	211
Leonard Jones, db, Texas Tech	9	16	239
Bob Riley, ot, Indiana	10	16	267
Brent Pease, qb, Montana	11	16	295
Keith Williams, dt, Florida	12	16	323

Tampa Bay—Completing a more successful draft than they did a year ago, when they lost No. 1 pick Bo Jackson to baseball's major leagues, the Bucs followed the signing of Testaverde by exercising three second-round picks.

Tampa Bay took Washington State's Ricky Reynolds, who can play either safety or cornerback; Winston Moss of Miami, who joins a youthful linebacker corps including Jackie Walker and Kevin Murphy; and Mississippi State's Don Smith, a quarterback who was named MVP as a running back in the Senior Bowl after gaining 53 yards in nine rushes and catching four passes for 78 yards. The Bucs plan to use him as a ball carrier.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Vinny Testaverde, qb, Miami (Fla.)	1	1	1
Ricky Reynolds, db, Washington St.	2	8	36
Trade from Detroit thru Houston and Buffalo			
Winston Moss, lb, Miami (Fla.)	2	22	50
Trade from San Francisco			
Don Smith, rb, Mississippi State	2	23	51
Trade from New England			
Mark Carrier, wr, Nicholls State	3	1	57
Don Graham, lb, Penn State	4	1	84
Ron Hall, te, Hawaii	4	3	87
Trade from Buffalo			
Bruce Hill, wr, Arizona State	4	22	106
Trade from San Francisco			
Henry Rolling, lb, Nevada-Reno	5	23	135
Trade from New England			
Tony Mayes, db, Kentucky	5	25	137
Trade from Washington			
Steve Bartalo, rb, Colorado State	6	3	143
Trade from San Diego			
Curt Jarvis, nt, Alabama	7	1	169
Harry Swayne, de, Rutgers	7	23	190
Trade from New England			
Stan Mataele, dt, Arizona	8	2	197
Trade from Indianapolis			
Joe Armentrout, rb, Wisconsin	9	1	224
Greg Davis, p, Citadel	9	23	246
Trade from New England			
Mike Simmonds, og, Indiana State	10	1	252
Reggie Taylor, rb, Cincinnati	11	1	280
Scott Cooper, dt, Kearney State	12	1	308
Mike Shula, qb, Alabama	12	6	313
Trade from St. Louis			

NFC WEST

Atlanta—In a bold move to fill the position vacated two years ago by Steve Bartkowski, the Falcons used their first-round pick to select Oregon quarterback Chris Miller. Atlanta coaches are not projecting Miller as an immediate starter. His competition is represented by Dave Archer, Turk Schonert and Scott Campbell.

Miller broke two of Dan Fouts' school records: 6,681 yards passing and 6,841 yards of total offense. He completed 61 percent of his passes as a senior, but threw more interceptions (13) than TD passes (12). "Of all the quarterbacks we looked at, Chris played his position better than anyone," says Atlanta's new offensive coordinator, Rod Dowhower.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Chris Miller, qb, Oregon	1	13	13
Kenneth Flowers, rb, Clemson	2	3	31
Trade from Green Bay			
Ralph Van Dyke, ot, S. Illinois	4	13	97
Mark Mraz, de, Utah State	5	13	125
Paul Kiser, og, Wake Forest	6	13	153
Mike Reid, lb, Wisconsin	7	13	181
Curtis Taliaferro, lb, Virginia Tech	8	13	208
Terrence Anthony, db, Iowa State	9	13	236
Jerry Reese, te, Illinois	10	13	264
Elbert Shelley, db, Arkansas State	11	13	292
Larry Emery, rb, Wisconsin	12	13	320

L.A. Rams—Deprived of the first-round choice they previously had expended to acquire quarterback Jim Everett, the Rams still clairn they filled their greatest need by reaching into the small college ranks for Winston-Salem's 6-1, 257-pound defensive end Donald Evans.

"We see Don coming in and being an outside pass rusher. Because of his great speed, he has the potential to be a truly great pass rusher," Coach John Robinson says of his second-round choice. "I don't care if I'm going from Division II to the pros," Evans says. "It's still all blocking, hitting and tackling. I'm ready."

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Donald Evans, de, Winston-Salem St.	2	19	47
Cliff Hicks, db, Oregon	3	18	74
Douglas Bartlett, nt, Northern Illinois	4	7	91
Trade from Houston			
Larry Kelm, lb, Texas A&M	4	25	108
Trade from Cleveland			
Scott Mersereau, dt, S. Conn. St.	5	24	136
Trade from Cleveland			
Jon Embree, te, Colorado	6	26	166
Trade from Chicago			
Michael Stewart, db, Fresno State	8	18	213
Tracy Ham, rb, Georgia Southern	9	17	240
David Smith, lb, Northern Arizona	10	21	272
Alonzo Williams, rb, Mesa	12	19	326
Fred Stokes, de, Georgia Southern	12	25	332
Trade from Cleveland			

New Orleans—Coach Jim Mora, a former assistant with the Washington Huskies, returned to his old school long enough to scout and then draft receiver Mo Hill, son of former NFL receiver J. D. Hill. "He's not a blazer but he comes up with the big catch when you need it," Mora says of his second-round pick.

The first player selected by New Orleans was defensive end Shawn Knight of Brigham Young. "He's got good speed and he plays with great intensity," Mora says of the 6-6, 288-pound defender.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Shawn Knight, dt, BYU	1	11	11
Lonzell "Mo" Hill, wr, Washington	2	12	40
Michael Adams, db, Arkansas State	3	11	67
Steve Trapilo, og, Boston College	4	12	96
Milton Mack, db, Alcorn State	5	11	123
Thomas Henley, wr, Stanford	6	12	152
Gene Atkins, db, Florida A&M	7	11	179
Toi Cook, db, Stanford	8	12	207
Scott Leach, lb, Ohio State	9	11	234
Robert Clark, wr, N.C. Central	10	12	263
Arthur Wells, te, Grambling	11	11	290
Tyrone Sorrells, og, Georgia Tech	12	12	319

San Francisco—Looking to the future, the 49ers began stockpiling selections a year ago and seemed to fulfill their needs in two areas.

Bolstering an aging offensive line, Coach Bill Walsh grabbed four-year starter Harris Barton of North Carolina (who plays both tackle and center) in the first round, then obtained another highly regarded rookie candidate in the second round in USC's Jeff Bregel. Nominated as the running back the 'Niners

need to replace Wendell Tyler and Joe Cribbs is first-round pick Terrence Flagler of Clemson, who averaged 6.5 yards per carry as a senior and showed additional talent as a receiver.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Harris Barton, ot, North Carolina	1	22	22
Terrence Flagler, rb, Clemson	1	25	25
Trade from Washington			
Jeff Bregel, og, Southern California	2	9	37
Trade from Philadelphia			
Paul Jokisch, wr, Michigan	5	22	134
Bob White, lb, Penn State	6	22	162
Steve DeLine, k, Colorado State	7	22	189
David Grayson, lb, Fresno State	8	22	217
Jonathan Shelley, db, Mississippi	9	22	245
John Paye, qb, Stanford	10	23	275
Trade from New England thru L.A. Raiders			
Calvin Nicholas, wr, Grambling	11	22	301

AFC EAST

Buffalo—The Bills moved quickly to shore up their defense by drafting linebacker Shane Conlan of Penn State in the first round and then utilizing two second-round selections to grab defensive backs Nate Odomes of Wisconsin and Roland Mitchell of Texas Tech.

Conlan is best remembered for his interception which set up the Lions' game-winning touchdown in the 14-10 national championship win over Miami. He was a three-year starter at Penn State and the leading tackler on last year's title team.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Shane Conlan, lb, Penn State	1	8	8
Trade from Houston			
Nate Odomes, db, Wisconsin	2	1	29
Trade from Tampa Bay			
Roland Mitchell, db, Texas Tech	2	5	33
David Brandon, lb, Memphis State	3	4	60
Jamie Mueller, rb, Benedictine	3	22	78
Trade from San Francisco			
Leon Seals, de, Jackson State	4	24	109
Trade from Washington			
Kerry Porter, rb, Washington State	7	3	171
Bruce Mesner, dt, Maryland	8	14	209
Trade from Los Angeles Raiders			
Keith McKeller, te, Jacksonville St.	9	4	227
Howard Ballard, ot, Alabama A&M	11	5	283
Joe McGrail, dt, Delaware	12	4	311

Indianapolis—Victories at the end of the season cost the Colts the opportunity to draft Testaverde. They also resisted the impulse to immediately select a replacement for running back Randy McMillan, injured when struck by a car just before the draft.

Instead, Coach Ron Meyer described himself ecstatic over the choice of Lombardi Award-winner Cornelius Bennett with the second pick in the draft. Bennett started at linebacker all four years at Alabama and capped his career with nine tackles in the Crimson Tide's 28-6 Sun Bowl triumph over Washington. He has been compared to Lawrence Taylor of the Super Bowl champion Giants. "I think he could be a dominant force in this franchise for the next 10 to 12 years," Meyer says.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Cornelius Bennett, lb, Alabama	1	2	2
Chris Gambol, og, Iowa	3	2	58
Randy Dixon, ot, Pittsburgh	4	2	85
Roy Banks, wr, Eastern Illinois	5	2	114
Freddie Robinson, db, Alabama	6	2	142
Mark Bellini, wr, BYU	7	2	170
Chuckie Miller, db, UCLA	8	5	200
Trade from Buffalo			
Bob Ontko, lb, Penn State	9	24	247
Trade from Cleveland			
Chris Goode, db, Alabama	10	2	253
Jim Reynosa, de, Arizona State	11	2	281
David Adams, rb, Arizona	12	2	309

Miami—Looking for defensive help against both the run and the pass, the Dolphins opted for 6-4, 270-pound defensive end John Bosa of Boston College in the opening round and then landed linebacker Rick Graf of Wisconsin in the second.

"Bosa has pass-rush ability and he's strong against the run," says Miami Coach Don Shula. "We felt that we had to have a defensive lineman who could play every down." Graf represents immediate insurance at linebacker, where the Dolphins have had injuries. With an additional second-round choice, Miami obtained rights to Scott Schwedes of Syracuse, who doubles as a pass receiver and kick-return specialist.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
John Bosa, de, Boston College	1	16	16
Trade from Minnesota			
Rick Graf, lb, Wisconsin	2	15	43
Scott Schwedes, wr, Syracuse	2	28	56
Trade from New York Giants thru St. Louis			
Troy Stradford, rb, Boston College	4	15	99
Chris Conlin, ot, Penn State	5	20	132
Trade from Kansas City			
Lance Sellers, lb, Boise State	6	15	155
Thomas Brown, rb, Pittsburgh	7	14	182
Joel Williams, te, Notre Dame	8	15	210
Mark Dennis, ot, Illinois	8	17	212
Trade from Kansas City			
Tim Pidgeon, lb, Syracuse	9	14	237
Bobby Taylor, db, Wisconsin	10	15	266
Terance Mann, dt, SMU	11	14	293
Jim Karsatos, qb, Ohio State	12	15	322

New England—Two years ago, Bruce Armstrong was a Louisville tight end. He is now listed as an offensive lineman with a fat wallet as the result of his selection by the Patriots with their first-round pick.

Armstrong gained 40 pounds after he was switched to the line by Louisville Coach Howard Schnellenberger. And he converted most of his 280 pounds to muscle, lugging kegs of beer on his off-season job. Armstrong, who achieved one of the highest grades in predraft IQ tests, is destined to join recent acquisition Sean Farrell in bolstering the Patriots' rushing attack.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Bruce Armstrong, ot, Louisville	1	23	23
Bob Perryman, rb, Michigan	3	23	79
Richard Gannon, qb, Delaware	4	14	98
Trade from Los Angeles Raiders			
Derrick Beasley, db, Winston-Salem	4	18	102
Trade from N.Y. Jets thru L.A. Raiders			
Tim Jordan, lb, Wisconsin	4	23	107
Danny Villa, ot, Arizona State	5	1	113
Trade from Tampa Bay			
Tom Gibson, de, Northern Arizona	5	4	116
Trade from San Diego			
Gene Taylor, wr, Fresno State	6	23	163
Carlos Reveiz, k, Tennessee	11	23	302
Elgin Davis, rb, Central Florida	12	23	330

New York Jets—Joining former Texas A&M star Johnny Hector in the Jets' backfield will be Roger Vick, the Southwest Conference's leading rusher last season when he gained 960 yards for the Aggies. A wide-out in high school, Vick has also been described by scouts as an exceptional blocker.

The Jets sacrificed a fourth-round pick to achieve a higher position in the second round and then utilized it to select the University of Cincinnati's Alex Gordon, described as the blitzing linebacker the Jets have never had. "I'm willing to learn," says Gordon, who has the 6-5, 240-pound size to fulfill that role.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Roger Vick, fb, Texas A&M	1	21	21
Alex Gordon, lb, Cincinnati	2	14	42
Trade from Los Angeles Raiders			
Onzy Elam, lb, Tennessee State	3	19	75
Kirby Jackson, db, Mississippi State	5	17	129
Tracy Martin, wr, North Dakota	6	21	161
Gerald Nichols, nt, Florida State	7	20	187
Eddie Hunter, rb, Virginia Tech	8	1	196
Trade from Tampa Bay			
Mike Rice, p, Montana	8	19	214
Ron McLean, de, Cal St. (Fullerton)	9	18	241
Sid Lewis, db, Penn State	10	17	268
Kirk Timmer, lb, Montana State	11	21	300
Bill Ransdell, qb, Kentucky	12	20	327

AFC CENTRAL

Cincinnati—Jason Buck, a high school quarterback who wasn't appreciated, scouted or recruited when he emerged from a tiny Idaho school, seems to have grown up. He has also switched positions and residences.

The first-round choice of the Bengals arrives in Cincinnati with credentials as the best lineman in college football and with the Outland Trophy in his trailer. With Ross Browner and Eddie Edwards both 33 and coming off disappointing seasons, the Bengals gave top priority to rebuilding their defense against the run. Cincinnati coaches expect Buck to bulk up from his 270-pound playing weight as a BYU senior and still be quick enough to play the role of pass rusher in their nickel defense.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Jason Buck, de, BYU	1	17	17
Eric Thomas, db, Tulane	2	21	49
Leonard Bell, db, Indiana	3	20	76
Skip McClendon, de, Arizona State	3	21	77
Trade from Seattle			
Jim Riggs, te, Clemson	4	19	103
Marc Logan, rb, Kentucky	5	18	130
Greg Horne, p, Arkansas	5	27	139
Trade from Denver			
Sonny Gordon, db, Ohio State	6	17	157
Chris Thatcher, og, Lafayette	7	21	188
Solomon Wilcots, db, Colorado	8	20	215
Craig Raddatz, lb, Wisconsin	9	19	242
David McCluskey, fb, Georgia	10	18	269
Jim Warne, ot, Arizona State	11	17	296
Jonathan Holifield, rb, West Virginia	12	21	328

Cleveland—Duke's Mike Junkin is the linebacker who is supposed to make Browns fans forget about Chip Banks.

A trade which sent Banks, four-time Pro Bowler, to San Diego allowed the Browns to obtain the No. 5 position in the draft and they immediately targeted Junkin. "In the course of my career, he's one of the two best I've ever seen in college, and the other one is playing with the New York Giants," says Coach Marty Schottenheimer in an obvious comparison to Lawrence Taylor.

The swap with the Chargers also allowed the Browns to move up in the second round, where they plucked Gregg Rakoczy, a 6-5, 281-pound center who snapped the ball for Testaverde at Miami last year. He'll probably play tackle for the Browns.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Mike Junkin, lb, Duke	1	5	5
Trade from San Diego			

(continued)

(Draft continued)

Gregg Rakoczy, oc, Miami (Fla.)	2	4	32
Trade from San Diego			
Tim Manoa, fb, Penn State	3	24	80
Jeff Jaeger, k, Washington	3	26	82
Trade from Chicago thru L.A. Rams			
Stephen Braggs, db, Texas	6	25	165
Steve Bullitt, lb, Texas A&M	8	25	220
Frank Winters, oc, Western Illinois	10	25	276
Larry Brewton, db, Temple	11	24	303

Houston—Seeking the element which their offense lost with the departure of Earl Campbell, the Oilers selected Miami fullback Alonzo Highsmith in a move which assumed added importance because of injuries to Oiler veterans Mike Rozier, Ray Wallace and Butch Woolfolk.

Described as a power runner, an adept pass receiver and a blocker who attacks enemy tacklers, Highsmith's talents may only have been lightly tapped in Miami's pass-oriented offense. The Oilers utilized their other first-round position to draft North Carolina State wide receiver Haywood Jeffires, a big-play specialist who may take some of the heat off holdover Houston receivers like Drew Hill and Ernest Givins.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Alonzo Highsmith, rb, Miami (Fla.)	1	3	3
Trade from Buffalo			
Haywood Jeffires, wr, N.C. State	1	20	20
Trade from Los Angeles Rams			
Walter Johnson, lb, Louisiana Tech	2	18	46
Trade from Kansas City			
Cody Carlson, qb, Baylor	3	8	64
Mark Dusbabek, lb, Minnesota	4	21	105
Trade from Kansas City			
Spencer Tillman, rb, Oklahoma	5	21	133
Trade from Los Angeles Rams			
Al Smith, lb, Utah State	6	7	147
Toby Caston, lb, LSU	6	19	159
Trade from Kansas City			
Robert Banks, dt, Notre Dame	7	8	176
Michel James, wr, Washington St.	8	7	202
Wes Neighbors, oc, Alabama	9	8	231
Curtis Duncan, wr, Northwestern	10	7	258
John Davis, og, Georgia Tech	11	8	287
Ira Valentine, rb, Texas A&M	12	7	314

Pittsburgh—The Steelers drafted three cornerbacks in the first four rounds, and the one they covet the most is Rod Woodson, who established all-time Purdue records for tackles, interceptions and kickoff returns.

At various times the Boilermakers utilized Woodson at wide receiver, running back and safety, but Pittsburgh coaches think he will prove himself a future All-Pro at cornerback. Some scouts, impressed by Woodson's statistics in workouts preceding the draft, thought he might be selected as high as third. "We spent considerable time evaluating a lot of other guys because we figured Woodson would be gone," Steelers Coach Chuck Noll admits.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Rod Woodson, db, Purdue	1	10	10
Delton Hall, db, Clemson	2	10	38
Charles Lockett, wr, Long Beach St.	3	10	66
Thomas Everett, db, Baylor	4	10	94
Hardy Nickerson, lb, California	5	10	122
Tim Johnson, dt, Penn State	6	1	141
Trade from Tampa Bay			
Greg Lloyd, lb, Fort Valley State	6	10	150
Chris Kelley, te, Akron	7	10	178
Charles Buchanan, de, Tenn. State	8	10	205
Joey Clinkscales, wr, Tennessee	9	10	233
Merril Hoge, rb, Idaho State	10	10	261
Paul Oswald, oc, Kansas	11	10	289
Theo Young, te, Arkansas	12	10	317

AFC WEST

Denver—John Elway, the man with the rifle arm, will apparently be able to fire his bullets to the most distant corners of Mile High Stadium if advance reports on rookie receiver Ricky Nattiel are accurate. But the coach of the AFC champion Broncos says he was also motivated by new NFL rules opening up the kick-return game when he drafted the speedster from Florida in the opening round.

"We don't have a wide receiver with the speed he has," Dan Reeves says in reference to his new wide receiver who consistently runs the 40 in 4.4 or less, once doing 4.29. But he also pointed to the fact that Nattiel led the nation in punt returns as a sophomore in 1984 with a 15.7-yard average. "And I think kick returns will be the main change in pro football next year," Reeves adds, citing new rules affecting kickoff and punting teams.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Ricky Nattiel, wr, Florida	1	27	27
Michael Brooks, lb, LSU	3	27	86
Marc Munford, lb, Nebraska	4	27	111
Warren Marshall, rb, James Madison	6	27	167
Wilbur Strozier, te, Georgia	7	27	194
Dan Morgan, og, Penn State	8	27	222
Bruce Plummer, db, Miss. State	9	27	250
Rafe Wilkinson, lb, Richmond	10	27	278
Steve Roberts, de, Washington	11	20	299
Trade from Los Angeles Rams			
William "Tommy" Neal, rb, Maryland	11	27	306
Tyrone Braxton, db, N. Dakota State	12	27	334

Kansas City—The Chiefs said they were going after running backs. They landed a pair of them with their first two picks, but both have question marks.

First-round choice Paul Palmer, from Temple, led the nation in rushing last season, but at 5-10, 180 his durability has been questioned. Second-round pick Christian Okoye is big enough at 6-1 and 253. But he played at Azusa Pacific, and the native of Nigeria hadn't touched a football until three years ago. Kansas City coaches insist that Palmer is ready to play in the NFL. They grant that Okoye represents a gamble, but a calculated one that could pay off in big numbers.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Paul Palmer, rb, Temple	1	19	19
Christian Okoye, rb, Azusa Pacific	2	7	35
Trade from Houston			
Todd Howard, lb, Texas A&M	3	17	73
Kitrick Taylor, wr, Washington St.	5	16	128
Trade from Minnesota thru Miami			
Doug Hudson, qb, Nicholls State	7	18	186
Michael Clemons, rb, William & Mary	8	23	218
Trade from New England			
Randy Watts, de, Catawba	9	21	244
James Evans, rb, Southern Univ.	10	20	271
Craig Richardson, wr, E. Washington	11	19	298
Bruce Holmes, lb, Minnesota	12	18	325

L.A. Raiders—Guaranteed to produce at least one long-shot choice in every draft, the Raiders selected major league baseball player Bo Jackson in the seventh round. If he ever shows up in the Coliseum, he should have some blockers in front of him.

In a projected shake-up of their offensive line, the Raiders drafted John Clay of Missouri and Bruce Wilkerson of Tennessee in the first two rounds. In the third round they picked fullback Steve Smith, one of the key blockers for Dozier at Penn State. The Raiders allowed 64 sacks last year, second-highest total in the NFL.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
John Clay, ot, Missouri	1	15	15
Bruce Wilkerson, ot, Tennessee	2	24	52
Trade from Washington			
Steve Smith, rb, Penn State	3	25	81
Trade from Washington thru New England			
Steve Beuerlein, qb, Notre Dame	4	26	110
Trade from Chicago			
Bo Jackson, rb, Auburn	7	15	183
Scott Eccles, te, E. New Mexico	9	15	238
Rob Harrison, db, Sacramento St.	10	3	254
Trade from Buffalo			
John Gesek, ot, Sacramento State	10	14	265
Jim Ellis, lb, Boise State	10	22	273
Trade from San Francisco thru Buffalo			
Chris McLemore, rb, Arizona	11	9	288
Trade from Philadelphia thru San Francisco			
Mario Perry, te, Mississippi	11	15	294

San Diego—Dan Fouts will apparently be provided with a large and reliable target when he embarks on his 15th NFL campaign. The Chargers selected 6-3, 235-pound tight end Rod Bernstine, who last year pulled in 65 passes for 710 yards and five touchdowns for Texas A&M.

The Chargers' other major acquisition on draft day was Chip Banks, obtained in an 11th-hour trade with Cleveland.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Rod Bernstine, te, Texas A&M	1	24	24
Trade from Cleveland			
Louis Brock, db, Southern Cal	2	25	53
Trade from Cleveland			
Karl Wilson, de, LSU	3	3	59
Mark Vlasic, qb, Iowa	4	5	88
Nelson Jones, db, N.C. State	5	3	115
Trade from Green Bay			
Jamie Holland, wr, Ohio State	7	5	173
Joe Macesker, ot, Texas-El Paso	8	4	199
Ron Brown, lb, Southern Cal	8	9	204
Trade from Philadelphia			
Thomas Wilcher, rb, Michigan	9	3	226
Anthony Anderson, db, Grambling	10	5	256
Joe Goebel, oc, UCLA	11	4	284
Marcus Greenwood, rb, UCLA	12	3	310

Seattle—Chuck Knox went shopping for thumpers on draft day and felt he landed a pair of them in linebackers Tony Woods of Pittsburgh and Dave Wyman of Stanford.

The Seahawks' coach indicated that he expects the 6-4, 240-pound Woods to battle veteran Greg Gaines at right outside linebacker. Knox also plans to use Woods as a pass-rushing lineman on third-down situations. Woods played defensive end his senior season at Pitt. Wyman, an inside linebacker, had an impressive senior season at Stanford after returning from a serious knee injury that benched him throughout the 1985 campaign.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Tony Woods, lb, Pittsburgh	1	18	18
Dave Wyman, lb, Stanford	2	17	45
Mark Moore, db, Oklahoma State	4	20	104
Tommie Agee, fb, Auburn	5	7	119
Trade from Detroit			
Ruben Rodriguez, p, Arizona	5	19	131
Roland Barbay, nt, LSU	7	16	184
Trade from Minnesota			
Derek Tennell, te, UCLA	7	17	185
Sammy Garza, qb, Texas-El Paso	8	21	216
M.L. Johnson, lb, Hawaii	9	20	243
Louis Clark, wr, Mississippi St.	10	19	270
Darryl Oliver, rb, Miami (Fla.)	11	18	297
Wes Dove, de, Syracuse	12	5	312
Trade from Green Bay			
Tony Burse, fb, Middle Tenn. State	12	17	324

END

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CAMPBELL'S 1987 FOOTBALL TRIVIA QUIZ QUESTIONS
(Please circle only one answer per question.)

1. Who was the last player in the Southwest Conference to be selected ALL-SWC at two positions during the same season?

a) Craig James b) Doak Walker c) John David Crow

2. Which University of Southern California running back led his team in total yards rushing, kickoff return yardage and scoring for three consecutive years?

a) Mike Garrett b) Charles White c) Anthony Davis

3. In one season, one player led Penn State in kickoff returns, rushing, all-purpose yards, interceptions and total offense. Who was he?

a) Lenny Moore b) Lydell Mitchell c) Charlie Pittman

4. What team ended Oklahoma's 31-game winning streak from 1948-50?

a) Nebraska b) Penn State c) Kentucky

5. Joe Namath, Steve Sloan and Kenny Stabler were All-America quarterbacks at Alabama during the 1960s. What other University of Alabama quarterback achieved All-America status during the 1960s?

a) Pat Trammell b) Scott Hunter c) Pat Sullivan

6. What Notre Dame player finished in the top 10 in Heisman Trophy voting three times (6th, 9th and 3rd), but never won the award?

a) Joe Theismann b) Tom Clements c) Terry Hanratty

Name _____ Address _____
(please print)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone ( ) _____

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1. Answer all six questions on the Campbell's Football Trivia Quiz Sweepstakes card. Be sure to mark only one answer per question. Cards with more than one answer per question will not be eligible. If the Campbell's® Football Trivia Quiz Sweepstakes questions are missing from this magazine, write to: Campbell's Football Trivia Quiz Sweepstakes, c/o Athlon Football Publications, 3814 Cleghorn Avenue, Nashville, TN 37215.
2. Enter as often as you wish but only one entry per envelope and each entry must include the following: your name, address and phone number and the Trivia Quiz answers on the Official Entry Form or a plain white 3" x 5" card; each entry must be accompanied by a proof of purchase (or facsimile) from any of the following: one label (or facsimile) from any can of Campbell's® Manhandler® Soups or Chunky Soups, and the Swanson® emblem (or facsimile) from any Swanson's® Plump & Juicy® Chicken package. Entries will become the sole property of Campbell Soup Company and will not be returned. Odds of winning depend upon number of entries received.
3. Entries must be received by September 15, 1987. Campbell and Athlon are not responsible for late, illegible, lost or misdirected entries.
4. Sweepstakes is open to any U.S. resident, age 18 or older, except employees and their families of Campbell Soup Company and Athlon Football Publications and their affiliates, publicity and/or advertising agencies.
5. Winners will be determined by a random drawing to be held on or about October 15, 1987 from among all correctly answered and eligible entries. All prizes will be awarded. Only one prize will be awarded to an individual or household. Winners will be notified by mail. Prizes are non-transferrable and no cash payments or substitution of prizes will be allowed. Prize winners may be required to execute an affadavit of eligibility and release. By entering Campbell's Football Trivia Quiz Sweepstakes, entrants agree to be bound by these rules and consent to the use of their names and/or photographs (without additional compensation) for publicity purposes carried out by Campbell.
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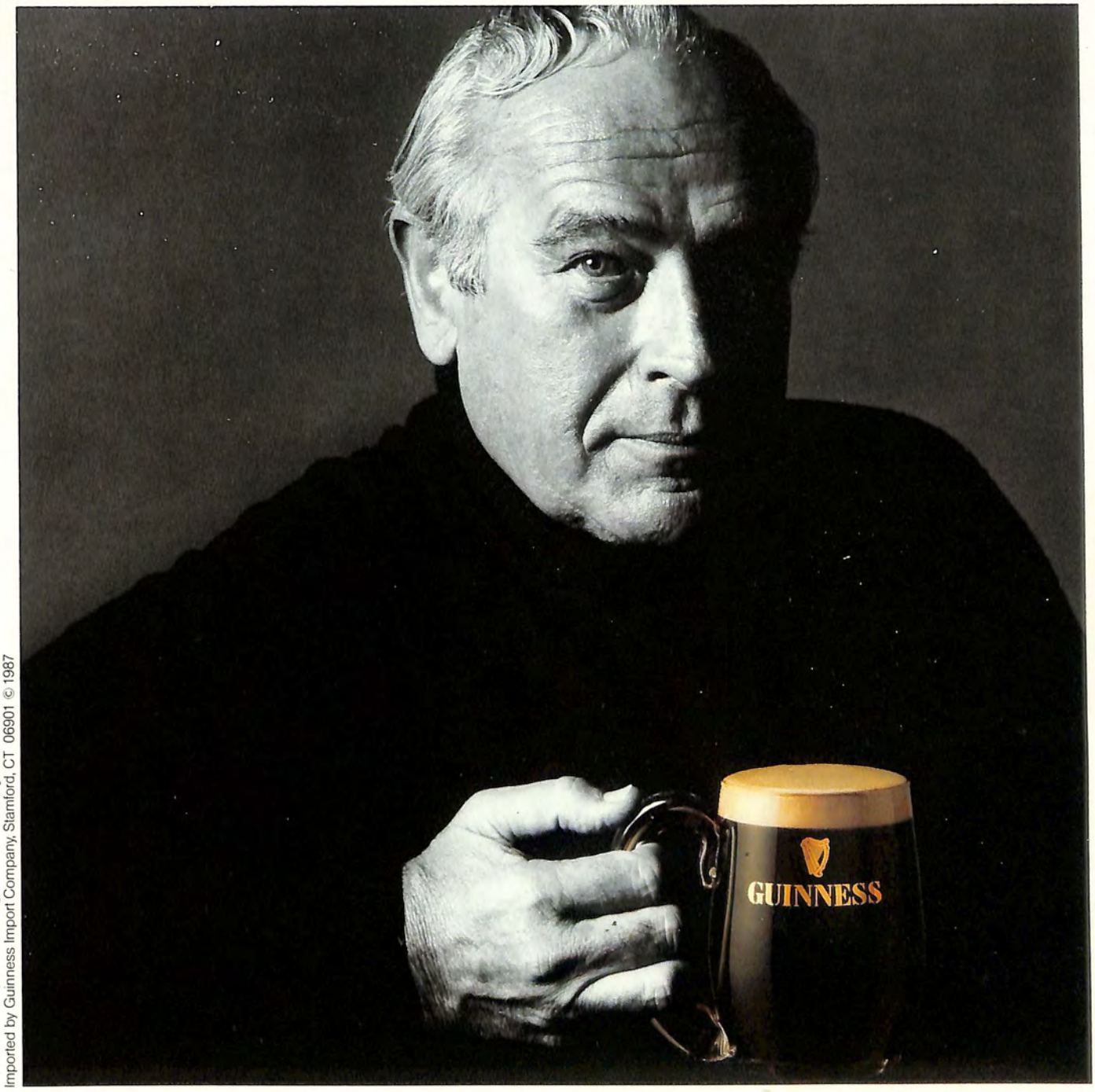

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